



Current Covid Measures in Universities - Information for Practitioners

Are you taking on EMS students? Did you stop during lockdown but thinking about it again? – Helpful links and advice.

Every vet student has a requirement for EMS to complete their degree. This last year has been particularly challenging for everyone. SPVS has worked with the EMS co-ordinators of the universities to put together a table that should help give all practitioners confidence that the students are low risk with regards to covid-19.

There should no longer be the need to isolate pre-placement with the advent of open access to lateral flow testing and widespread vaccination. This coupled with the drop in prevalence hopefully should improve confidence of general practitioners to support EMS students safely again

Ultimately the risk is dependent on individuals and practices should be encouraged to have their own biosecurity system using lateral flow testing, risk assessments and ideally placing students in work bubbles if appropriate.

The students all have access to testing before their placement. Ideally this should be two tests 3 days apart. This should reduce any need to isolate pre-placement.

Since during term time the students are subject to rigorous testing and PPE protocols, they should be well rehearsed to join your practice protocols.

The students would find it helpful if practices could present them with their covid-19 protocols before their placement. They will expect to be asked to test pre placement and provide their results to the practice alongside whether they have been vaccinated or not.

Hopefully, this will not take too much extra time by the practice and the staff will be more assured that the risk of covid -19 spread will be very minimal. SPVS and the vet schools hope this will encourage more practices to take back vet students.

Please find the student testing requirements at the vet schools below and there are further guidelines on the SPVS website following this link: <https://spvs.org.uk/ems/>

University	Up to date Covid statistics webpage	Student testing requirements at the vet school
Edinburgh	https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19  <p>Coronavirus (Covid-19) updates: www.ed.ac.uk/covid-19</p>	<p>Final Year - twice weekly testing on Campus via the University's TestED Project. Asymptomatic PCR testing using saliva samples.</p> <p>All students have access to the University's LFD Testing Centre. All years tested before they return to Campus. Students provided with LFD kits to test at home where required. Asymptomatic testing is now available to all adults in Scotland.</p>
Glasgow	https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/coronavirus/ <p>The University and Vet School do not publish data re positive cases although out of 4,000 tests since Christmas the University have had less than 5 positive lateral flow tests</p>	<p>Not routinely undertaken although students and staff have ready access to lateral flow tests and PCR tests if required eg changing household/EMS. Some distributed sites have made lateral flow/PCR testing mandatory</p>
Cambridge	https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/stay-safe-cambridge-uni/data-from-covid-19-testing-service	<p>Pooled asymptomatic PCR testing for each student household every week. This is all 6 years and includes clinical vets. Any positive household tests are followed up with individual PCR tests to confirm the result. Free PCR tests are also available on demand for any student or staff members with symptoms.</p>
Bristol	https://www.bristol.ac.uk/coronavirus/statistics/	<p>Final years have weekly PCR inbetween rotation location changes (20_21 cohort). Everyone has access to on-site lateral flow tests but of course now we can all do 2x weekly lateral flow at home. All staff and students on campus take twice weekly lateral flow tests.</p>
HarperKeele	https://www.keele.ac.uk/coronavirus/cases/ https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/general/583/coronavirus-cases	<p>At each site students and staff doing any F2F required to have a minimum of 2 tests per week after having had the 3 initial tests on their return to campus from Christmas and Easter.</p>

University	Up to date Covid statistics webpage	Student testing requirements at the vet school
Nottingham	https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-active-case-statistics.aspx	<p>Nottingham run an optional weekly asymptomatic testing service for staff and students alike. Some of our clinical associates insist that final year students return a negative test prior to arriving on their premises for IMR. For other sites, it remains optional. The tests are via PCR in our university labs. We encourage as many students to partake in the testing as possible. No new cases in over 4wks.</p>
Liverpool	https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/coronavirus-safety/covid-19-statistics/	<p>Students tested on campus every 3 days. Must have 2 x negative tests prior to entering campus from being away.</p>
RVC	https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/coronavirus	<p>Testing all rotation students twice weekly with lateral flow tests. All students have to test prior to return to campus for any face to face teaching. All students have access to NHS lateral flow tests as and when required for EMS placements. Any positive lateral flow tests are followed up with PCR testing and acted on as per the government guidelines.</p>
Surrey	https://www.surrey.ac.uk/coronavirus	<p>Final Year students have a PCR test done in the week before their next rotation. Students have access to onsite lateral flow tests and are signposted to ordering home testing kits from the government</p>