UCL Medical School

Covid-19 FAQ 2021-2022

How do I report positive test results or Covid-19 symptoms and related absence?

UCL's guidance on reporting symptoms or positive test results may be found here. Medical students are also required to report any Covid-19 related absence through the Medical School's online absence reporting system.

Should I be vaccinated against Covid-19?

The GMC, the Medical School and our partner hospital Trusts expect medical students taking clinical placements to be fully vaccinated and this will be a mandatory requirement by 1st April 2022. Full vaccination against Covid-19 offers protection for you, your family and your patients.

 How do I get a Covid-19 booster vaccination?

Government guidance is for a booster vaccination (using the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine) to be offered to frontline medical staff and certain other patient groups. You may book your vaccinations through the NHS app, take up vaccinations offered at your local hospital/GP site or at UCLH's vaccination centre at Bidborough House.

 Do I need to do regular Lateral Flow Tests?

UCL expects that all students perform twice weekly lateral flow tests and most hospital trusts are requiring the same. We strongly recommend that you do this. You should report the result of all lateral flow tests either via the government website or, when directed, to your placement provider. In some instances, your placement provider may ask you to provide evidence of a negative lateral flow or PCR test before you can enter certain clinical areas or have contact with certain vulnerable patients. You should also report positive tests to UCL through Connect to Protect.

Where do I get Lateral Flow Tests from?

Some hospital sites are providing kits (although they are not obliged to do this). Kits are also freely available at pharmacies, and Covid-19 testing sites. They can also be ordered online here.

What should I do if I have been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19?

Students in Years 1 and 2 are asked to follow UCL's guidelines. Students on placements in the later years should follow local Trust guidelines. Guidelines vary slightly between placement providers and so you should familiarise yourself with these when you start. The administrator at your placement will be able to direct you to these. Please be aware that there may be differences in policies around self-isolation, further testing and access to specific areas. Please ensure you follow the current guidelines for the clinical site at which you are placed.

Guidance from our 3 central Trusts can be found in your year Moodle course.