

UCO Coronavirus update – 5th March 2021.

Asymptomatic testing.

Dear student,

As mentioned in my update earlier this week, to facilitate a safe return to campus, we are encouraging all students and staff to take a regular Lateral Flow Test to identify any cases of Coronavirus in people who are not displaying symptoms.

If you are due on site next week for classes, your tutor will already have contacted you. Our library is also open from Monday 8th March, but students wishing to use it must still book a slot (contact details below). In all cases, if you are intending to come onto campus next week or at any point thereafter, we strongly encourage you to get a test before you come to site.

Any UCO student can get a Lateral Flow Test, which provides a rapid result within 30 minutes, by visiting Oldham Leisure Centre. There is no need to book. When you arrive, please advise the staff that you are a UCO student. The location and details for the testing centre are:

Location:	Opening Times:
Oldham Leisure Centre, Middleton Road, Oldham, OL9 6AF.	Monday to Friday: 7.30am – 5.30pm; Saturday: 10am – 4.30pm.

Location:	Opening Times:
Parking is available at the leisure centre.	

Once you have received your test results, please text them to 07912 485439. You will then be sent a text when you need to book a further test. After taking three tests at the Leisure Centre, you will be provided with further testing kits to undertake the process at home.

Please note that if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not go to the Leisure Centre as you will not be allowed access to the site, instead please book a test via the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

Consent for testing:

In order to provide you with a test, it is necessary for us to have your consent. You should recently have received an SMS and email about *asymptomatic testing*. **It is important that you reply to that message to provide us with your consent.** The tests play an important role in keeping everyone on campus and indeed in the wider community safe, so we hope that all students and staff will be willing to take part.

Please provide your consent by replying to the message as soon as possible.

Access to the library:

From the 8th March, we will also be re-opening the library, to cover the whole working week. It remains necessary to book a space in the library, as was the case before Christmas, but the library will be open to all

students Monday to Friday, including Monday-Thursday evening. If you would like to book time in the library please email ucolrc@oldham.ac.uk or call 0161 344 8888. The library opening times are:

- Monday: 8.30am-8.45pm;
- Tuesday-Thursday: 8.30am – 7.45pm;
- Friday: 8.30am - 4.45pm.

More information on Coronavirus testing can be found at the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) [website](#).

Please remember to follow the national guidance and also to provide your consent for asymptomatic testing. It is important that we all follow the rules in order to suppress the virus.

[Wash HANDS | Cover FACE | Make SPACE](#)

We will continue to keep you updated.

Kind regards,

Helen Mathers

Vice Principal – HE and Higher Skills

LATEST INFORMATION:

[UK Government advice](#).

[NHS advice](#).