

Dear colleagues,

Last week, I committed to giving you an update about the on-campus COVID-19 testing for students.

You have undoubtedly seen references to student COVID-19 case numbers in the news and I want to give you the latest detail on the current situation for University of Limerick as we have it.

Of the 628 tests that were carried out, there was a 4.5% positivity rate among students. This is lower than the national average of 5.5%. Nevertheless, contact tracing is taking place and the picture may change over the coming week.

The evidence shows that the rise in cases can be largely attributed to student households. UL, HSE Mid-West, An Garda Síochána, Student Life and the Post-graduate Student's Union are continuing with a multi-agency approach in communicating appropriate behavior and Public Health Advice to students.

On-campus activity has been reduced to approximately 2% of what would normally take place so there is a minimal amount of students or staff on campus under Level 5 restrictions.

The Provost issued an email to students on Friday reiterating their personal responsibility in minimising the rates of community transmission.

FFP2 Respirators

As noted last week, these are available for staff working on campus and may be ordered by your line manager or Chief Technical Officer via the *PPE Request Form* available in the [Return to Campus Working](#) section on the COVID-19 SharePoint Hub.

There are specific requirements to wearing FFP2 respirators. Prior to use, please consult the HSE's [short video guide on how to wear FFP2](#) respirators.

I understand that a degree of pandemic fatigue is creeping into all our lives and urge you to take care of yourself and your family.

Kind regards,

