

PRESS RELEASE

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Nasopharyngeal antigen tests: the Faculty of Pharmacy organises continuing education sessions

The Faculty of Pharmacy at Paris-Saclay University is organising continuing education sessions for professionals authorised to carry out nasopharyngeal antigen tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

Managing the Covid-19 health crisis effectively requires mass testing and as a result, rapid antigen tests can now be carried out in pharmacies across France. In accordance with a national decree issued on 16 October 2020, pharmacists are now authorised to administer nasopharyngeal antigen tests to detect SARS-CoV-2.

Alongside Professors Antoinette Lemoine, biological pharmacist, and Vivien Veyrat, dispensary pharmacist, the Continuing Education team at the Faculty of Pharmacy have developed a new continuing education session to meet the urgent need to train pharmacists undertaking the tests. A combination of theoretical and practical exercises, the in-person sessions last two hours.

The sessions are taught by Doctor Antoinette Lemoine and Doctor Emilie Bergoin in accordance with the recommendations of the Société Française de Microbiologie, the Collège Français d'Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie & Chirurgie Cervico-Faciale and in compliance with the quality standards of the Laboratoires de Biologie Médicale (LBM). The sessions provide participants with an overview of the characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 and theory on taking nasopharyngeal swabs (gestures, health and safety measures, adapting the environment). Participants can also practice carrying out antigen tests using nasopharyngeal swab simulators or volunteer participants. Tests are carried out during each session.

Thirteen sessions have been organised since November, providing training for some 265 pharmacists, pharmacy assistants, pharmacy students, nurses and doctors. Additional sessions will be scheduled depending on the demand.

ABOUT PARIS-SACLAY UNIVERSITY

Paris-Saclay University brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with national research organisations.

With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Paris-Saclay University offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the University's academic staff.

Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Paris-Saclay

University benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading University, Paris-Saclay University is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Paris-Saclay University is nestled in a protected natural area, at the very heart of a dynamic economic hub.



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