



## A STUDY OF DAILY CONTACT TESTING OF CLOSE CONTACT GROUPS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Dear <Parent/Guardian>

As a [school/ college] we will be taking part in a new study called “Daily Contact Testing” which is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care through NHS Test and Trace.

### WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

Normally, when we identify a person has COVID-19, the whole group of people that have been in close contact with that person have to go home and self-isolate for 10 days to stop the virus spreading. This can mean lots of people being absent from school or college, but it is important to do this to protect the other people in school and at home.

As part of the study, schools have been allocated to either do daily testing of close contacts or continue current guidance and, in addition, provide two [Polymerase Chain Reaction](#) (PCR) tests whilst close contacts self-isolate at home after contact with a positive person. Our school has been chosen to support the study by providing two PCR tests whilst self-isolating.

**We will continue to follow national guidelines and self-isolation guidance as normal for all students and staff.**

The study will help in deciding how people in schools are tested in the future.

### IS TAKING PART VOLUNTARY?

Participation in the study is completely voluntary. If students do not wish to take part, they can choose not to or withdraw at any time.



## WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

When a positive case is identified in school, the school will be asked to tell the research team those individuals who are taking part in the study that had been in close contact.

Students and staff identified as a close contact who are taking part in the study will be asked to perform two COVID-19 tests at home whilst self-isolating:

- A PCR test at home **on day 2 and 7** – two home PCR testing kits for the study will be provided. These are similar to the tests performed at NHS Test and Trace sites. A swab is taken at home from the nose and throat. There will be instructions on how to return the swab. The swabs will be processed in a laboratory after two weeks. **Results of these tests will therefore not be available until after the self-isolation period.**

Students and staff will be asked to complete a brief survey on day 7 and may be invited to speak to a researcher.

## WILL YOU TELL ME MY RESULTS?

The two COVID-19 tests sent whilst self-isolating will only be processed after two weeks. Results of these tests will therefore only be available after the self-isolation period.

## WHAT SHOULD A STUDENT DO IF THEY DEVELOP SYMPTOMS?

If students develop symptoms at any time during the study, they must immediately self-isolate and book a test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-COVID-19-test> or by calling 119. The school/college should be informed if the test result is positive.

If a student reports a positive test at any point during the study they will be provided an additional special home PCR test kit for the study.

## ARE HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OR OTHER PEOPLE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE?

This study is **only** open to students and staff at schools or colleges who have been identified as a close contact of a student or staff member at school. If a student or staff member is a household contact, they are not able to participate.



## WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH MY INFORMATION?

This is a summary of the School's Privacy Notice for Daily Contact Testing Trial that you will be provided a copy of:

We will collect personal information, including names, date of birth, contact details and names of contacts at school for you and the people you have been in contact with. This information, together with COVID-19 test results will be provided to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) so they know when someone tests positive to help stop the spread of the virus. Information is also shared with DHSC to help assess how effective the trial is. DHSC are the 'controller' for this use of personal data – they decide how it will be used and are responsible for it. The school use this information to help us manage our COVID-19 response within the school – where we do this we are the controller of the personal data.

The use of personal data by the school and by DHSC is made lawful as it is being used for the protection of public health. We will keep all the information securely in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

If you would like to ask about how your personal data is used or if you have a complaint you can contact:

School: [Contact Details]

DHSC: [data\\_protection@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about this, please contact the school / college via XXX.

Yours sincerely,  
XXXXX  
Headteacher

**For additional assistance, please email**  
**[dct-pilotpmo@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:dct-pilotpmo@dhsc.gov.uk)**