



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

Dear Parent/Carer

As a school 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, 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 therefore 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.

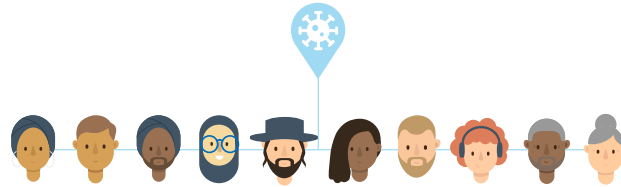
The trial is being co-ordinated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care, Department for Education, Office of National Statistics and ethics cleared by Public Health England. It will also be independently evaluated and overseen by an independent data monitoring committee and a trial steering group.

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 may withdraw at any time.

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - [this form](#) must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child taking part.
- **Pupils and students aged 16 and over who are able to provide consent on their own behalf** can complete [this form](#) themselves, having discussed participation with their parent/guardian.



- **For any pupil or student who does not have the competence or capacity to provide informed consent - [this form](#) must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child taking part.**

The consent form is for participation in the COVID-19 Daily Contact Testing study being led by the Department for Health and Social Care through NHS Test and Trace.

Taking part in the study and testing is your choice. You will need to give consent if you wish to take part.

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.

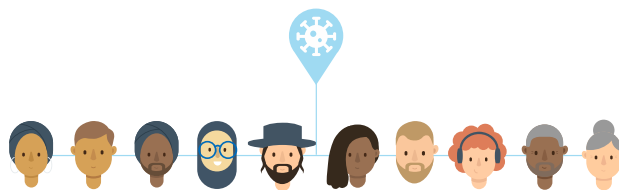
WHAT SHOULD A STUDENT DO IF THEY DEVELOP SYMPTOMS?

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 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 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:

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: k.andrews@kimberleyschool.co.uk

DHSC: data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk

For more information, see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [overview of the Daily Contact Testing Trial](#) (our school is in the Control Group).

We hope you will be willing to participate in this trial; should you have any questions about the trial, please contact Kirsty Andrews, Academic Support Services Manager.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew George
Head Teacher