

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you from the Department for Education's Rapid Testing Team to give you some background on the Daily Contact Testing trial in which your school is participating.

We know that parents / carers want their children and young people to remain in school and college for their learning. Every time a positive COVID-19 case is identified in school, it currently leads to mandatory self-isolation of students and staff who are contacts of the case for a minimum of 10 days to help stem transmission of the virus. Current contact testing, combined with regular twice-weekly asymptomatic testing (for those without symptoms), could allow us to keep schools and colleges open and maximise attendance, while minimising the risk of community transmission.

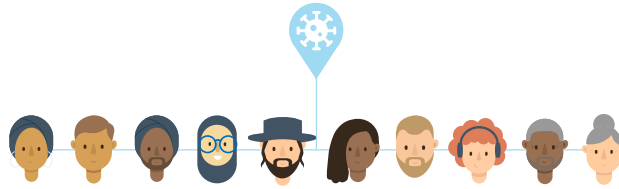
We have recently invited schools to consider taking part in a clinical covid trial of Daily Contact Testing, to help evaluate its effectiveness and safety. The trial has started and will conclude this summer.

Schools colleges across England will be randomised into 2 groups: an Intervention Group and a Control Group. The Control Group will quarantine contacts of positive cases in-line with current national guidance whilst the Intervention Group will allow Daily Contact Testing (DCT), enabling students to attend school/college for each day their Antigen Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid test shows a negative result.

Students in the trial that are a close contact of a positive case will be able to choose to take a rapid test each morning and, if it is negative, continue to attend school or college. They would have to continue to self-isolate at home in the evenings, weekends and holidays.

Should your child test **positive**, the following procedure would be implemented:

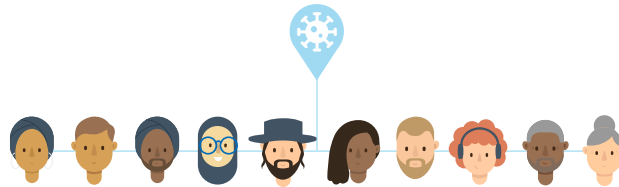
1. If your school is in the Intervention Group we will offer anyone in close contact to your child to continue to go to school for the subsequent days, assuming they do not test positive using their Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. All staff and children in contact with your child will be offered [a PCR \('Polymerase Chain Reaction'\) test](#) on days 2 and 7 following your child's positive LFD test. In the event of testing positive, your child will also receive a PCR test on day 1. Should any contacts of your child test positive from their LFD test, they will need to isolate for 10 days as per Government guidelines.



2. If your school is in the Control Group then all close contacts to your child will be asked to isolate for 10 days following your child's positive result. Contacts in the Control Group will also be asked to perform swabs for a PCR test on day 2 and day 7. The purpose of the Control Group is to allow us to compare the number of positive results in each group, confirming whether or not the rollout of Lateral Flow Devices would help to create a safer environment for **pupils and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.**

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.

The trial is voluntary and shall only include staff and students who consent to do so. If you would like your child to participate in the trial, please return the attached consent form.



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

We will collect personal information, including name, 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/college – 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 Email: admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

DHSC: data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk

We hope you will be willing to participate in this trial; should you have any questions about the trial, please contact admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,