



We are in the Control Group

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 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 or college, 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, could allow us to keep schools and colleges open and maximise attendance, while minimising the risk of community transmission.

We have recently invited schools and colleges 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 and 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 Lateral Flow Device test shows a negative result.

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

1. St Mary's College is in the **Control Group** so 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 an safer environment for **pupils and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.**



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2. Other schools will be in the Intervention Group and will be following a different procedure.

The trial is being co-ordinated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care, Department of 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 complete the consent form when asked to do so, this will only be if/when you are identified as a close contact.

A copy of the School's Privacy Notice for Daily Contact Testing Trial can be found on the school's website: www.smchull.org .

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

Sophie Teasdale, Data Protection Officer.

St Mary's College, Cranbrook Avenue, HULL. HU6 7TN

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@smchull.org.

Yours faithfully,

Department for Education's Rapid Testing Team