



Dear Parent/Guardian

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.

The study is trying to find out if it would be safe and practically possible for students who are identified as contacts to have a daily test which, if negative, would allow them to come to school. This could minimise the amount of time students have to miss from school, but scientists need to be sure that this method does work and does not lead to lots of people catching Covid.

As part of the study, the schools and colleges who are taking part 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.

Notre Dame has been randomly selected as part of the ‘Control Group’

This will mean that students who are identified as a contact in school of someone who has tested positive for Covid will have to isolate, as they have all year, even if they agree to take part in the trial.

WHAT WOULD IT MEAN IF MY CHILD TOOK PART IN THE STUDY?

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 PCR COVID-19 tests on day 2 and 7 while at home whilst self-isolating. Two home PCR testing kits for the study will be provided.

Notre Dame High School,
Fulwood Road, Sheffield S10 3BT
Telephone: 0114 230 2536 Fax: 0114 230 8833
Email: school@notredame-high.co.uk Web: www.notredame-high.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Davies



“In the schools teach whatever is necessary to equip students for life.” Saint Julie Billiart

Notre Dame High School, a charity and company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (reg no. 8098354). Registered Office: Fulwood, Sheffield, S10 3BT



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.

These test results will be used by researchers carrying out the study to see if there are differences in the number of infections between the schools who are following the current rules (Control group) and the schools trying daily testing for contacts (Intervention Group).

WILL YOU TELL ME THE RESULTS OF MY PCR COVID TESTS?

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.

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 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.

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER TAKING PART?

It would be an advantage if students didn't have to isolate if they were identified as contacts, but this will only happen if this study has strong evidence to show that this approach is safe and practically possible.

Notre Dame High School,
Fulwood Road, Sheffield S10 3BT
Telephone: 0114 230 2536 Fax: 0114 230 8833
Email: school@notredame-high.co.uk Web: www.notredame-high.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Davies



"In the schools teach whatever is necessary to equip students for life." Saint Julie Billiart

Notre Dame High School, a charity and company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (reg no. 8098354). Registered Office: Fulwood, Sheffield, S10 3BT



If enough schools and students take part in the trial as part of the control group, it will help give evidence to show whether daily testing for contacts is a safe alternative to isolation. Without students taking part in control schools, the evidence will not be clear.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH MY INFORMATION IF I TAKE PART?

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: hhazleton@notredame-high.co.uk or evessey@notredame-high.co.uk

DHSC: data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE RUNNING OF THIS TRIAL

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 enclosed consent form.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the school on 0114 2302536

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

For additional assistance, please email dct-pilotpmo@dhsc.gov.uk

Notre Dame High School,
Fulwood Road, Sheffield S10 3BT
Telephone: 0114 230 2536 Fax: 0114 230 8833
Email: school@notredame-high.co.uk Web: www.notredame-high.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Davies



"In the schools teach whatever is necessary to equip students for life." Saint Julie Billiard

Notre Dame High School, a charity and company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (reg no. 8098354). Registered Office: Fulwood, Sheffield, S10 3BT