



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



21 April 2021

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. The study will help in deciding how people in schools are tested in the future. Details are provided below but this study essentially means that any students who are sent home to isolate as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 will be asked to take two additional tests for research purposes.

In order to take part in this study, we are asking that you complete the consent form below for each child that you have in school:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKH6QssNkby9WQ2Jzs5nclyRKVtgX_3zjdxQ-mrs-3B8z5A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Why is this study important?

Normally, when we identify that 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 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.

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 have 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 [Polymerase Chain Reaction](#) (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. Further details can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QGe2iFB8wgRTjnm8f2o5FVmillYhNsOu/view?usp=sharing>

Telephone: 01773 716396

Fax: 01773 765814

Website: www.heanorgate.org.uk

Email: mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

Kirkley Drive, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7RA

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 with 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?

The School's Privacy Notice for Daily Contact Testing Trial can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16gjiwWyznulDtc_OFFCS-cuHLS7Knwtlh/view?usp=sharing

If you would like to ask about how your personal data is used or if you have a complaint you can contact data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk or contact the school directly.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Heard

Vice Principal & COVID Co-ordinator