



## COVID-19 Testing in schools

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Over the last few weeks you will have undoubtedly seen various media reports and Government announcements regarding the testing in schools programme; which is aimed at preventing the spread of Coronavirus and reducing the rates of transmission. As you would expect, we have been carefully planning and absorbing the guidance as it has been received.

I am pleased to announce that following extensive organisation, training and Risk Assessments we will be **starting our Testing programme from the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.**

The original programme aims were to operate with contact testing if there was a confirmed case that was in attendance of school buildings; however, this has changed following a review from the Government, which was announced on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2021:

*“Following new advice from NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England (PHE), we are temporarily pausing the daily contact testing element of the testing programme, which was in place as an alternative to self-isolation for those who came into contact with positive cases in schools.*

*Daily contact testing was initially introduced into secondary schools and colleges with the agreement of Public Health England, based on the best scientific understanding available at the time. NHS Test and Trace and PHE have reviewed their initial advice in light of the higher prevalence and rates of transmission of the new variant, and concluded that these changes in the virus warrant further evaluation work. This evaluation will consider the impact of using daily contact testing instead of self-isolation to make sure it is achieving its aim of breaking chains of transmission and reducing cases of the virus in the community.”*

*Gov.Uk - Department for Education (DfE)*

This means that the self-isolation period for close contacts, (10 days), and confirmed cases will now be in operation as before. We will of course inform you if you are affected by close contact criteria if required:

[When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do-coronavirus-covid-19)

### Consent and Privacy Notice for COVID testing at the Academy

Only students with a signed consent form will be tested in the Academy. Please see below a link for parents and carers to give consent:

[Student Consent Form](#) \*

*\* You may note Point 11 in the NHS consent form, which stipulates the contact testing arrangements. At this point in time this is not applicable and relates to the DfE statement above. If this element becomes active in future we will notify you - upon this notice, if you wish to change your consent, you will be required to inform the Academy.*

The consent form also contains a link to a Privacy Notice, which must be read and confirms that parents and carers have been given the opportunity to consider the information provided by the Academy. This can also be found using the link below:

[Student Privacy Notice](#)



## How often will students be tested?

After consent is received, students will be tested twice within the first week of attending the Academy site.

Any new attendees will be tested twice during their first week of attendance.

At this moment there are no continuous weekly testing arrangements in place. If there are changes to the weekly student testing we will notify you.

## Which students will be tested?

At this point in time, only students that are attending the Academy site will be tested. This means vulnerable and children of Critical / Key Workers. As previously stated, this will only be conducted with a completed consent form.

If there are any changes to this guidance, we will of course notify you.

All other students, who are remote learning from home and develop COVID symptoms, should continue to follow the Government advice and testing procedures:

[Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## Should consent forms be completed if students are not attending the Academy site during the current national school closures?

If you agree to consent and the Privacy Notice, yes.

Providing that the testing programme is in operation at the time, this will support our processes when further announcements on student attendance are made.

## What support and information will students receive?

On each day of testing, students will receive an information and instruction video. This clearly indicates the protocols and what to expect during the testing process.

In addition, the Academy staff who are leading, or supporting with the organisation and student supervision, have all received the Government and NHS led training programme to ensure our practices are secure.

We have also constructed an academy student presentation to further support students, which is specific to our environment and physical set up of the Academy building. The video contains a virtual tour of the testing facilities and location.

## Further questions or queries

If you have any further enquiries relating to the testing in schools programme here at Corby Business Academy, please feel free to contact the Academy COVID Team: [covid@corbybusinessacademy.org](mailto:covid@corbybusinessacademy.org)

Finally, I hope you are all safe and well. Please remember to contact us with any questions or support you require for remote learning as required.

Yours sincerely

Mr S. Underwood  
Associate Principal