

PHASE 2 DAILY CONTACT TESTING IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TRIAL

What is Daily Contact Testing (DCT)?

Daily Contact Testing is the regular, daily testing of close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19.

The evidence from these pilots and evaluations will be used to inform any potential future rollout.

Is it safe for my school/college?

Yes. Around one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it.

By increasing the positive cases detected, Daily Contact Testing is potentially the best way to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in the community.

The trial aims to answer this question, and the safety and progress of the trial is regularly reviewed by a panel of independent experts.

What is the benefit of taking part?

To keep students in face-to-face education for as much time as is possible.

To restrict self-isolation to a primary group of people (positive case) and reduce the impact of self-isolation to a secondary group of people (close contacts).

HOW IT WORKS



Positive case self-isolates at home for 10 days and does a Research Polymerase Chain Reaction test (PCR)

(following current government guidelines)



Close contacts are identified and contacted

If your school/college has been randomly selected to Continue with self-isolation (Control Group)

- Individuals (close contacts) self-isolate at home for 10 days.
- In addition to this, they should do 2 x Research PCR tests (one on day 2 and one on day 7) which will be posted to and from the individual's house and the lab.
- PCR results are not available automatically but are available on request 2 weeks later.
- As a school/college, there is less impact to normal operations if assigned to this group as it is most like current mass testing nationwide.
- Funding to each randomly selected group will be equal.

If your school/college has been randomly selected to Trial Daily Contact Testing (Intervention Group)

- Rather than isolate for 10 days, the individuals return to school/college and have a rapid test every morning in school/college for 7 consecutive days. They can engage in all school/college activities only after a negative result is returned but must self-isolate in the evenings and weekends until the daily testing is finished.
- The Orient Gene LFD (Lateral Flow Device) test takes approximately 15 minutes to produce a result.
- In addition to this, they should do 2 x Research PCR tests (one on day 2 and one on day 7).
- PCR results are not available automatically but are available on request 2 weeks later.