

## Consent Form for NHS Covid-19 Testing in School

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent or carer,

You will have heard that testing in schools for students and staff without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

After preparing thoroughly over Christmas and in the first weeks of term, we are now ready to begin carrying out these tests at Benfield.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school/college safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

**We will shortly begin testing all staff and those students who are currently attending school for face to face lessons, and who want to participate.**

**So that we can begin testing as soon as we are able, it is essential that we receive a completed consent form from all staff and parents wishing to take advantage of this testing support.**

**Students not currently in school should still complete and submit a consent form so that it is in place ready for when they return.**

**Consent forms should be completed using the [Google Docs](#) form available at the following address:**

**<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1FHki3M0o02ISREa1fQVazWVrrP7y-1At3oqYRahvt9UN0QxUkiENFNWU0MxT1JHUKdSS1hRR1JNRS4u>**

**If you are not able to complete this electronically, then a paper copy is included with this letter.**

**The deadline for all consent forms to be completed online or sent to the main office is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Students in school for face to face lessons at present should hand them to Year Leaders when they arrive at school in the morning.**

I enclose a leaflet with instructions on how the test will work for students, to show them how easy the process will be for them. Over the next week we will also be taking a series of videos and pictures of our testing facility and process featuring staff who students will recognise, so that we can support and reassure them as much as possible about what testing means and will look like.

As parents we would like to reassure you that much of the discussion in the media about the complexity of the testing process relates only to the organisational challenges it presents to schools – from a students' point of view the process will be straightforward, and the test is a quick and self-administered swab of their nose and throat supervised by trained staff who can assist if needed. As part of our set-up process we have had to undertake practice tests on ourselves and can confirm that this is an accurate reflection of what the student experience will be.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. Once a completed test result is logged onto the NHS website, a text will automatically be sent to the

parents'/carers' mobile number you provide on the consent form from the NHS to give you further information about your results. Texts are sent for both negative and positive results.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. Testing will obviously be offered free of charge.

As a school we support every step we can take as a community to reduce the disruption to students' learning that is being caused by COVID-19. I would therefore thank you in advance for providing your consent to this testing process, and helping us to get our students back into the classroom as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Carr

**Headteacher**

## **Consent Form Introduction**

This consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

## Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 15/01/2021 and the attached Privacy Notice.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for lateral flow tests. I / my child will self-swab if I / my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available. In the case of under 16s or pupils who are not able to provide informed consent, I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate and self-swab (with assistance if required).
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my /my child's result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where I am / they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing. I/they will follow the instructions on the PCR Kit to return the test the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
8. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I / my child is removed from school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I / they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
9. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
10. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
11. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.