



YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT, WHAT'S NEXT?

As we know, if your child has tested positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 they must self-isolate at home for 10 days, as do their close contacts (following current government guidelines).

This trial, as a whole, is testing the possibility of substituting the self-isolation of close contacts with daily contact testing (DCT) of close contacts for 7 days while continuing to attend school/college. During the trial, students or members of staff with symptoms or **who have tested positive** will be asked to carry out a Research PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test and a Confirmatory PCR test and are instructed to go home immediately to self-isolate for 10 days. They must avoid, wherever possible, the use of public transport for the journey home. The following day is Day 1 of the 10 day self-isolation period.

There will be 200 schools taking part in the trial in total. As this is a clinical trial, the schools will be randomly split into two groups – the Intervention Group and the Control Group.

Your child's school/college is part of the Control Group

If your child is identified as a Close Contact to a Positive Case, then they will be instructed to go home immediately to self-isolate for 10 days. The following day is Day 1 of that period. Participants in the Control Group will be posted 2 x PCR tests to be done at home on Day 2 and Day 7. These tests are then subsequently posted to the lab using prepaid packaging sent to the Participant at home.

This group is not taking part in DCT. The Control Group act as a kind of measuring stick for the data as a whole – a way to compare the data from the Intervention Group and measure the success of the trial.

The aim of this trial is to maximise, as much as is safely possible, face-to-face education and to minimise, as much as is safely possible, the disruption of self-isolation to individuals and their families.

As a parent or legal guardian, you must complete the consent form in order for your child (under 16 years of age) to participate in the trial. This form should have been provided to you by your child's school/college. The trial is voluntary and shall only include staff and students who consent to do so. DCT is not mandatory. If you do not wish your child to do DCT or to stop at any point, your child will revert to the legal duty to self-isolate for the original 10-day period. Schools can continue to provide suitable arrangements for clinically vulnerable staff and students as they do now.

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.

For any further information on government guidelines for self-isolation, [click here](#) or for any other questions about the trial, please contact your project lead Sylvester Smith on Sylvester.Smith@dhsc.gov.uk