

Ernest Bevin College and Sixth Form Centre

A Specialist Sports, Mathematics & Computing College

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Principal: Tracy Dohel

10th December, 2021.

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are continuing to work to keep Ernest Bevin College as safe and COVID-secure as possible and minimise the risk of COVID related disruption to the new College year. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is offered in the days before the new College term.

Secondary-age students are being prioritised for this testing and along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help to minimise the risk of infection as we reopen the College in January 2022.

We **strongly** encourage as many students to participate in the asymptomatic testing in order to keep the whole College community safe, which includes our families. **Parental consent is required for students under 16, please complete the consent form at the end of the letter. If you have previously consented to testing then no further action is required.**

To facilitate this testing programme, we will be staggering the return to College dates for students as follows:

Tuesday, 4th January 2022

	Year 11 – Year 13	Year 7 – Year 10
8.45am	Students with consent to be tested arrive at 8.45am and go directly to the small gym.	Year 7 to 10 remain at home with PSHE on CANVAS for period 1 and lessons from period 2 remotely taught by teachers.
10.00am	College resumes for remaining year 11, 12 and 13 students	

Wednesday, 5th January 2022

	Year 11 – Year 13	Year 7 – Year 10
8.45am	Students arrive at 8.45am and go to their tutor rooms.	Year 7 to 10 students with consent to be tested arrive at 8.45am and go directly to the small gym. Students at home will have PSHE work set on CANVAS.
10.00am	College is open to ALL students and face to face lessons resume.	

Your child should therefore **arrive at 8.45am** on the 1st day of their return to college so an LFD test can be performed before their learning day starts at 10.00am

For those children who are not attending the college for testing, they will need to access online learning via Canvas and arrive at college for a 10.00am start to their learning day.

The tests are voluntary, but we are encouraging everyone to take them.

We will retain some capacity for testing on site into the Spring Term, but this will be for exceptional circumstances. We ask that all families continue to do their bit by testing twice weekly at home. We will distribute home testing kits.

The testing programme is envisaged as follows:

1. Testing will be offered free of charge.
2. Parental consent must be obtained for COVID-19 testing for all students under the age of 16 (If you have previously consented to testing then no further action is required), students over the age of 16 and staff should complete their own consent form.
3. Students should self-test twice 3-5 days apart whilst away from College and before their return date.
4. Anyone who tests positive will need to be collected from/leave College, self-isolate and arrange a PCR test. The results of this test should be shared with the College.
5. Students and staff members can still attend the college even if they choose not to participate in the testing programme.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a self-swab of your own nose and throat. Students undertaking the swab process will be overseen on the college site by trained college staff and/or volunteers. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students and staff participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed of any positive result.

Consent Forms

To enable us to move ahead quickly, we are asking that you provide consent for COVID-19 testing for your children in all year groups as soon as possible. If you have previously consented to testing then no further action is required. We have included a privacy notice.

If you are happy for your child(ren) to be tested, please complete the form via the link below (one per student). If your child is 16 or over, they can complete their own consent form [here](#). Whilst the electronic consent is preferred, you could alternatively print, complete and return the registration and consent form included with this communication to the main office, marked clearly 'COVID Testing Consent'.

Finally, please bear in mind how quickly the national situation is changing and thank you for your patience.

I will write again next week regarding plans for the start of the academic year.

Best wishes

Ms T Dohel,

Principal

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Students will need to take a further PCR test – the College can supply these.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/getcoronavirus-test>.

Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools and colleges

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.

Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated [10/12/2021] 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.

I Agree to the above terms for testing	
I do not agree to the above terms for testing	
Students First Name	
Students Last Name	
Year group	
Tutor Group	
Relationship to child	
Signature (typing out your name is sufficient if you are filling in this form digitally)	
Today's date	
Details of any health or accessibility issues which might affect a child's safe participation in the testing exercise.	