



7 May 2021

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID-19 Contact Testing Update

I am writing to update you and confirm that the College will be continuing with the current COVID-19 Health and Safety measures for the remainder of this half term. This includes the compulsory wearing of face masks, split lunches and one-way systems, etc. As the government begins to ease the national lockdown we will continue to review our measures.

I wish to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the information below from the Department of Health and Social Care with regard to a new COVID-19 contact testing study.

Ivybridge Community College has been chosen to take part in a new study called **Daily Contact Testing**, which is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care through NHS Test and Trace. The College sees this as beneficial in the long-term to help support keeping students in full time face-to-face education.

This study is important because normally, when we identify a person with COVID-19, the whole group of people that have been in close contact with that person have to go home and self-isolate for 10 days to stop the virus spreading. This can mean lots of people being absent from College but it is also important to do this to protect the other people in College and at home.

As part of the study, Ivybridge Community College has been chosen to support the study by providing two PCR tests whilst self-isolating. We will continue to follow national guidelines and self-isolation guidance as normal for all students and staff.

This study will help in deciding how people in schools are tested in the future and could prove statistically that, through employing Daily Contact Testing, both staff and students could safely remain onsite.

Participation in the study is completely voluntary. If students do not wish to take part, they can choose not to or withdraw at any time.

We will be in contact to ask for your consent to participate in the study if your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case, whilst the study is running.

Please also see the letter published on the College's website with further information about the study. [Click here](#)

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the College's Lateral Flow Testing Team via LFT@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

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