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Head Teacher: Mr Tony Sharpe, BA (Hons), M Mus, M Ed, NPQH

3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Consent for Covid19 Testing Arranged by St Bernard's

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

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.

We will be arranging tests for all staff and students who wish to participate. An instructional leaflet with some more information is enclosed.

This document gives additional information which should allow you to give or withhold your informed consent for your daughter to be tested. The link which allows you to tell the school whether you give your consent is in the main school letter sent to you today, and is included again here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ch8ZOGkbAECpwraPTJTyDU0UB-o8589LrAygznemJ_FUMU5SNVhDNVIZNFQwQIk2WIZWTFc4UU1QTi4u

If you are happy for your child to be tested and have given consent, please follow the instructions on the registration card that your daughter will bring home the day before she is due to be tested (one per student). The registration card and attached bar codes must be brought back into school in order to be taken to the test centre at the time of testing.

When registering your daughter, please give your mobile number and the following email address: testresults@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff at our local testing centre, who will oversee the swab process. Testing will be offered free of charge. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Sharpe
Headteacher

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

What happens if the test is negative?

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

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

Students will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme arranged by the 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can contact the school using the details available on our website.

NHS Test and Trace consent for COVID-19 testing

Introduction

The tests arranged through St Bernard's consent form are 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:

- **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 school/college about the testing, based on the information presented in the attached letter (dated 1/3/2021) 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.
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 consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive test result.
7. 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.