

## Ely College FAQ's regarding COVID-19 testing in college

- When will my child be invited for a test?

We will be using the parent evening booking system to enable parents to make bookings for their children for the first of the three tests that schools and colleges are required to conduct. The system is well understood, simple to use and the most effective way for us to coordinate the numbers of students on site. Invites for appointments will be opened from 6pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and parents will be written to inform them that the slots are available. The link to make bookings is here as well as on the letter to parents <https://elycollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	BLSF
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	No live lessons – work will be set on teams for students to complete	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Live lessons taking place on teams	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Live lessons taking place on teams	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Live lessons taking place on teams	Students will be invited to attend an appointment to be tested in college	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons	Students will be in college attending face to face lessons

- Will school buses be running to enable students to come in for their test?

No – for the first test only, students will only be permitted to come onto the site for a test and will then be required to go straight home – we cannot supervise students for the rest of the day. Students can make their own way in for their appointment via public transport, cycle or walking and parents can bring their children in for the appointment. We ask parents to wait in their car and will keep the car park in front of the Bishop Laney Sixth Form building empty for parents to use. The test should take no longer than 15 to 20 minutes. It is important that parents and students always maintain social distancing from others not in their family bubbles.

- Are parents allowed to accompany their child in for the test?

No – as we will be testing around 400-500 students per day, we need to keep the number of people in the college reception area as low as possible – house staff will be on site to reassure students.

- What support is in place to help students with additional sensory needs?

If you believe that your child will require support from a TA to conduct the test, then please contact Mrs Kay on: [skay@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:skay@elycollege.co.uk) as soon as possible and this can be arranged.

- Who will be performing the test on the children? Should I not be at ease with the answer, what is the school policy should I not feel able to consent to testing.

The students will conduct the test themselves. Testing staff are on hand to show the students what to do but it is the children themselves who will be swabbing their tonsils and inserting the swab into their nose.

As regard to consent – these tests are voluntary. We recommend that they are completed and, we have carried out over 800 of them so far, and all without incident. If any parent or carer is concerned about the tests, then they have the right to not offer consent for testing. For convenience, here is the link again for giving consent [Consent form for testing](#)

- Are the students required to wear uniform for the test?

No – as the students are only in for 5-10 mins, it would be unreasonable to ask them to wear uniform.

- Can I ask about the consent form? Why do we need to include postcode, mobile phone number, date of birth and email address? I also don't agree with using the form for research purposes, yet you are making the answers compulsory.

It is unfortunate that the link to the privacy notice on the consent form was out of date as the notice has been updated and moved. [Here is a link to the correct privacy notice](#) which can be found, along with many other COVID-19 documents on the CMAT website.

The personal data associated with test results will be shared with:

- Department of Health and Social Care, NHS, Public Health England – to ensure that they can undertake the necessary Test and Trace activities and to conduct research and compile statistics about Coronavirus.
- Your GP – to maintain your medical records and to offer support and guidance as necessary.
- Local Government to undertake local public health duties and to record and analyse local spreads.
- I have two children in different year groups – can I bring them in at the same time?

We're afraid not – in order to comply with social distancing measures, we need to tightly control the potential for cross group interactions. We understand the contradiction that the siblings live in the same house and therefore are in their own bubble, but we need to consider the groups that we have within college.

- My child is self-isolating – do they still need to come in for a test?

No – please contact your child's House SSA to inform us of this and we will arrange for your child to be tested once their isolation ends.

- My child has had a confirmed test diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days – do they still need to be tested?

No – the guidance is clear that any person who has had a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 infection within 90 days should not have a LFD test or a PCR test.

- On the day they come in for test are there any live lessons or assignments?

On the day that the year group is due in for testing there will be no live lessons – we feel that the day will be too fragmented with groups of students missing content. There will be work set on Teams for students to complete around their testing appointment.

- Is the test painful? Does it make you feel sick?

The most common experience shared on social media about the test is that it can make you gag. We have found that when you swab the tonsil area of the throat you might experience a tickle, but you are more likely to not feel anything. There is also no danger of inserting the swab too far up your nose either – you do feel some resistance so, at that point, you twist it around five times – it might make your eyes water but it certainly is not painful.

- If I don't consent, when will my child be allowed into college?

If your child is not tested then they will be able to re-join college with the rest of their year group on the planned day. So, for example, if your child is in Year 9 they will be able to come back for face to face lessons on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March with the rest of the year group.

- If I don't want my child to wear a face covering in class – will they be isolated from their peers?

No – whilst we would like all staff and students to wear a face covering these are voluntary. There will be no sanction applied to any student who does not consent to being tested or wearing a face covering in classrooms.

- How will I be notified of my child's result?

You will receive an email, by the end of the day, with a bar code and instructions on how to register the bar code with the NHS testing site. Once you have done this you will receive a text message confirming the result of the test.

- What if my child tests positive?

We have carried out over 700 tests without a single positive result so if your child does test positive then we will know the result 30 minutes after testing and will notify you directly. If the positive test from test 2 or 3, and your child is in school, then our procedures for managing a suspected case will commence. Your child will be collected from lesson and placed in a first aid room away from other students and staff. They will be looked after by a member of staff in full PPE and you will be contacted to collect your child immediately. You will be asked to book a PCR test and your child, and the rest of the family, will need to isolate. Clear instructions will be provided to you if this occurs.

- Will I need to bring my child in for the second and third tests?

No – once your child has returned their first negative test then they will be able to join their classes for face to face teaching. We will then carry out the second and third test on a set day to take place during their planned lessons during the weeks commencing 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March.