

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I wrote to you on the 10<sup>th</sup> September informing you that, following correspondence received from the Chief Medical Officer, the procedures around Close Contact Tracing in school settings were changing. Close contact tracing in schools is now coordinated and managed by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

This letter is to remind you that **Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)** remains available for **all** members of the College Community. Regular testing carried out in this manner increases the possibility of identifying positive cases. Any person who receives a positive LFT must then book a PCR test. Following a positive PCR result, that person is required to self-isolate in line with PHA instructions. Our recommended testing times for LFT are **Sunday** evenings and **Wednesday** evenings. The regular use of these tests allows us to have increased confidence in the safety of all those attending the College as pupils or as members of staff.

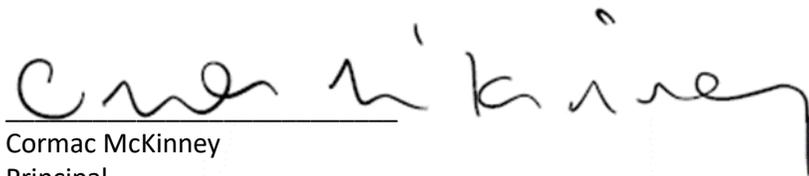
I am including with this correspondence, a copy of the previously circulated correspondence and permission form for those who wish to now sign up to the use of LFT which I would ask that if you have not previously done so, you would return to your son's form teacher as soon as possible to allow for the distribution to your son of a seven pack supply of tests.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that in the event of any child testing positive following a PCR test or being identified as a close contact, you are requested to give the reason for his absence in line with normal absence reporting procedures.

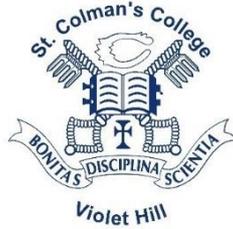
If you have any further comments or queries, please contact Reception on 02830262451, email [info@stcolmans.org.uk](mailto:info@stcolmans.org.uk) or contact the College Student Welfare Officer [mmcgeown667@c2kni.net](mailto:mmcgeown667@c2kni.net)

Thank you for your continued support and understanding

Yours faithfully



Cormac McKinney  
Principal



20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students/Colleagues

We are extending the roll out of our Lateral Flow Testing kits from the Education Authority. Rapid testing in school has been identified as an appropriate non-clinical intervention (NCI) for use in schools to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, and these tests aim to avoid the disruption we have experienced in schools, through this early identification.

The Lateral Flow Test initiative is being led by the Public Health Agency working in partnership with the Education Authority; jointly sponsored by the Department of Health(NI) and the Department of Education(NI) and is linked to a national programme facilitated by the Department of Health and Social Care.

The second phase of the test programme will now include all students and staff working in Post-Primary Schools. This means tests will be offered to:

- Students in J1, J2, J3, S1 as well as the previously offered S2-S4
- All permanent and temporary members of staff

All students and staff members will be offered one pack of seven tests every three weeks. It is up to individuals to **volunteer** to be part of this programme, it is not compulsory to participate as a student or staff member.

Tests will be administered at home each Sunday and Wednesday evening. If a positive result is recorded, you and your household must self-isolate, you should then book a PCR test to confirm the result, if the result is positive, then you must continue to self-isolate for 10 days. (Guidance for Return to School measures that are in place in the new 2021/2022 school year, will be sent closer to the time.)

The enclosed guidance outlines all the procedures which you must follow on volunteering to be part of the LFT programme.

Consent forms and details of how to report your test results are attached to this correspondence. Consent forms should be returned to your son's form teacher in order to facilitate the distribution of Lateral Flow tests.

The videos below, which accompany the attached information leaflet, shows how to accurately administer the test.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

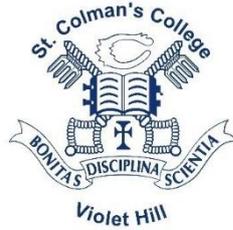
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-56326456?fbclid=IwAR02HNQyzt9iBmkBsk5w4fru1jweariDo3D22YGD\\_X3EU7Fifeo7cxcs](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-56326456?fbclid=IwAR02HNQyzt9iBmkBsk5w4fru1jweariDo3D22YGD_X3EU7Fifeo7cxcs)

We are keen for as many of our students and staff to volunteer to participate in this programme, as we continue to work towards keeping our school open and everyone safe.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Cormac McKinney  
Principal

Previous date of issue 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, updated issue 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021



## **Student Consent for Northern Ireland Schools Lateral Flow COVID 19 Testing**

This form explains the reasons why and how St. Colman's College, Newry will record your consent to participate in the Northern Ireland Schools Lateral Flow Covid19 Testing programme. This process involves processing personal data under data protection laws.

To enable us to comply with our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation, we are required to obtain express consent for the use of your/your child's personal information for participation in the Northern Ireland Schools Lateral Flow Covid19 Testing programme.

Without your consent we will not include you in this programme and will not issue you with Lateral Flow Testing kits. This COVID 19 testing programme is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care, the NI Department of Health and the NI Department of Education to provide asymptomatic testing in schools and other education settings for staff and senior students. You can see more information on how this testing works by visiting this link - <https://sway.office.com/whz8dJ46JpeKLcIV?ref=Link>

**Taking part in testing is voluntary.** There is no expectation or obligation to participate. Nobody should be required to undergo testing without consent, and nobody should be excluded from school if they do not wish to test.

**A student aged 16 or above and who is considered capable of giving their own consent** can complete this form on their own behalf.

**Parents/legal guardians of students over the age of 16 and not considered capable of giving their own consent** should complete this form on behalf of the student.

This consent form is valid for the period from the date of receipt to the end of June 2022.

Consent will also be refreshed where any changes to circumstances occur – this can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- New requirements for consent e.g. a change to the testing approach.
- Changes to school circumstances, e.g. You or your child change schools.
- The programme is extended beyond June 2022

Please read the following conditions thoroughly and provide your consent as appropriate by circling either 'Yes' or 'No' for each criterion.

Contd/

I <u>consent to participate</u> in this testing programme.	YES	NO
I have understood that my data will be held and shared in accordance with the data privacy notice	YES	NO
I agree that if my test results are confirmed to be positive, I will inform the school to support contact tracing.	YES	NO
I agree to accurately record all of my test results at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result">www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result</a> or by calling 119.	YES	NO

**Consent can be withdrawn at any time by notifying the Principal and completing a new copy of this form.**

If you do not consent to a particular use of your or your child’s personal information, you/your child will not suffer any detrimental effect as a result.

Where you would like to amend the provisions for which consent has been provided, you must submit your request in writing to the Principal. A new form will be supplied to you to amend your consent accordingly and provide a signature.

I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided to me by the school about this testing programme in the letter dated Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions about the programme and, if I have, I have had these answered satisfactorily.

**Name of Student: (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Year group \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parent/Guardian: (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_