

CBT/LD

28 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Re: COVID-19 Surge Testing in Secondary Schools in Cumbria - Information and Request for Consent

Cumbria County Council and NHS Test and Trace are asking every person living and working in Cumbria between the ages of 12 and 30 to get a PCR test for COVID-19, even if they do not have symptoms. This is because infections have risen sharply in Cumbria over recent weeks, particularly among younger age groups. We have been asked to work with Cumbria County Council to manage the testing of school-aged children whilst they are at school.

A Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test will be conducted. This is different to the tests that students have been using at home because the sample is sent to a laboratory to be processed. A PCR test is more sensitive and can also be analysed to show which variant of COVID-19 is present in positive samples. **Students would NOT need to isolate whilst waiting for their test result.**

Testing is likely to take place at school from Wednesday 30 June during lesson time so students should attend as normal. The test involves students taking a swab of their own throat and nose. The test will be supervised, and advice provided on how to do this. A trained adult can take the swab where required.

For students younger than 16 years, the consent form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent can complete the consent form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent/carer if under 18.

Please read the attached Frequently Asked Questions sheet and privacy statement. If you have any questions, please contact the school by telephone or email – 01900 606446 or enquiries@energycoastutc.co.uk. Please then sign and return the consent form by Tuesday 29 June if you are happy for your child/yourself to have a PCR test at school. Please add your mobile number in order to receive a copy of the result.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to manage COVID-19 within school and our wider community.

Yours sincerely



Cherry Tingle
Principal