

## The 'Back to School' study

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### Parent/Carer Information Sheet

#### What is the purpose of this study?

We want to hear the views of young people, their parents, and teachers on secondary schools re-opening in September and a possible new study in schools to test young people and school staff for coronavirus. Findings from this study will be used to support senior leaders in education and those producing guidance for schools at local and national level regarding how best to support students, parents and teachers, particularly vulnerable groups, as schools re-open fully.

#### Why have I /my child been invited to take part?

Your child's school is one of a number in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire that have agreed to take part in the study. We are inviting pupils aged 11-16 years, their parents/carers and some of the school staff to part.

#### What will taking part involve?

You and your child will be invited to take part in an interview with a researcher from the University of Bristol (Dr Ava Lorenc). This interview will be arranged for a convenient time and can be over the phone or digitally using a secure online platform called Bluejeans. This is like Zoom, but more secure and you do not need to download anything to use Bluejeans. You can either do the interview with your child or alone or with a friend that has a child in the same school. If your child does not want to do an interview with their parent/carers, they can do the interview with a friend from their school if they prefer.

During the interview, we will ask you and your child to share views on schools re-opening in September including any concerns you may have, and ways that school can address them. We also want to discuss your views on the potential benefits and negative aspects of a new study that may be introduced into local schools involving coronavirus testing using saliva samples. You do not need to answer every question, and if you or they feel uncomfortable, the interview can be paused or stopped at any time.

#### How long will it take?

The interview will last up to 45 minutes.

#### Do my I/my child have to take part?

No, it is up to you and your child to decide to take part. It is fine if only you or your child wants to take part rather than both of you together. .

#### What if my child or I change our minds?

You and/or your child can change your minds at any time, without having to tell us why. If you want to leave the study, let us know and we will delete your/your child's interview data. However, once we have reached the stage of anonymising your data we will no longer be able to remove your/your child's data.

#### Will the interview be confidential?

Yes. We will digitally audio record and then transcribe your/your child's interview and take out anything that might identify them or their school. What you or your child tells us will be treated as confidential. This means we will not be able to discuss with you what you or your child said in the

interview. All information collected will be held securely at the University of Bristol and will only be seen by the research team and auditors authorised by the University of Bristol. However, if a young person tells us something that suggests they may be in danger or are being harmed, we are required by law to inform the relevant authorities.

### **Are there any benefits to taking part?**

Some people like to help with research and enjoy talking about their experiences in an interview. Understanding what parents and young people think of this issue may help improve the experiences of school for young people in the future.

### **Are there any disadvantages or risks to taking part?**

Talking about experiences of the coronavirus pandemic and schools reopening may raise issues that are personal to you/your child. We will conduct the interview in a sensitive and respectful way. You or your child do not have to answer a question if it makes you or them feel uncomfortable. If you or your child gets upset at any point, we can pause or stop the interview.

### **Will we receive anything for taking part?**

If you and/or your child agree to take part, you will receive a £10 voucher each as a thank you.

### **What will happen to the results of the research?**

We will send the school a summary of our results at the end of the study which we hope they will share with you. Results from this study may be published in scientific journals and presented at scientific conferences. Everything will be fully anonymised: it will not be possible to identify you or your child from any report, publication or presentation. Anonymised interview data will be securely stored by the University for up to 20 years. If you take part, we will ask if you are happy for us to share your anonymised interview data with other researchers working on relevant studies. You can still take part in our study if you prefer that your data not be used for other studies.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is led by Dr Ava Lorenc, under the supervision of Dr Judi Kidger and Dr Jeremy Horwood from Bristol Medical School at the University of Bristol and is funded by National Institute for health research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West and NIHR Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU). The University of Bristol is the sponsor for this study. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

Ethical approval for this study has been given by the Health Sciences Faculty Research Ethics Committee at the University of Bristol.

### **What if I want to take part, have questions or want further information?**

Feel free to call or email the study researcher: Dr Ava Lorenc. Email: [ava.lorenc@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ava.lorenc@bristol.ac.uk)  
Phone : (0117) 92 87323. Study website: <http://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19-schools-study>. If you have any concerns or would like to make a complaint about the study, please contact the Research Governance team, University of Bristol: [research-governance@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk).

**THANK YOU**