



Covid19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools (CoMMinS) Participant Information Sheet School Study: Older Child

Invitation

You are invited to take part in a research study to find out more about COVID-19 within schools. The study is being run by the University of Bristol in partnership with Bristol City Council and Public Health England.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and, if you want, talk about it with others (e.g. teacher, family members, carers or friends). If anything is not clear or if you would like more information before you decide, please contact us (details at the end of this information sheet).

Why are we doing the research?

We want to find out how many people in schools get COVID-19 and how it spreads. We want to help schools to prevent and cope with outbreaks, even if some students have no symptoms. We also want to find out how schools can support mental wellbeing.

The research has several parts, including:

- Every month, for six months, we will test staff and students for COVID-19.
- We will make a map showing where people have had COVID-19 in Bristol. This will help to show how COVID-19 spreads.
- We will use data to answer questions like *What makes some people more likely to catch COVID-19?* and *At home, are children more likely to infect adults, or are adults more likely to infect children?*
- We will advise on how to stop COVID-19 spreading. We will help schools to improve their contact tracing.

Why have I been invited to take part?

Your school has volunteered to be part of the study. Everyone in your class is being invited.

Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part. It is up to you to decide with your parent/carer. If you decide to take part, you can change your mind later.

What will it involve?

A member of our team will come to your school every month. They will show you, with other students in a small group, how to provide a spit (saliva) sample safely.

You will need to spit into a funnel joined to a tube. We will arrange this to be done with as much privacy as possible. We will also ask you to fill in a short questionnaire.

We will request saliva samples and a repeat questionnaire every month for 6 months.

What other information will you need from me?

We will ask for your consent to link the information you provide as part of this study with your NHS records.

Your NHS number is very important for this research. We will ask you for this if you agree to take part. If you or your parent/carer don't know it, we will ask for your permission to contact your GP (family doctor) to find it.

We would like to hear from you (by email to commins-school@bristol.ac.uk) if you develop symptoms or seek a COVID-19 test via other routes in between our study visits.

Who will know my results?

We will do two tests on your saliva. One will look for whether you have COVID-19 when we test you. The other will look for COVID-19 antibodies. If you have antibodies, it means you have already had COVID-19.

If you test positive for COVID-19 when we test you, we will contact you and your parent/carer by text message, or another way if you prefer, to let you know. We will aim to do this within 72 hours of the test being done.

One staff member in your school will be the CoMMinS contact. If your test shows that you have COVID-19, we will tell the CoMMinS contact and we will also let your Headteacher know. **We will not tell anyone else in school.**

We must also tell Public Health England and the NHS Test and Trace scheme, and Bristol City Council's education team. We will also tell your GP (family doctor). We will use a secure way to report this information./

Our antibody test is being developed. This means we won't tell you whether we find antibodies in your spit. If we can make sure our test gives the right results, we might start to tell you the result of the antibody test.

What happens if my test is positive?

You will have to stay at home with your family and self-isolate following your school's current policy and Public Health England (PHE) guidance. We will invite your family to do COVID-19 spit tests and questionnaires at home as part of an extra study (the 'Household Study').

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

Giving samples takes five minutes. We will work with your school to make sure there is as much privacy as possible to make sure that it is not embarrassing to spit. If you test positive, you will have to isolate at home with your family. We will not tell other people at school. If other students work out that you have tested positive, they may say unkind things to you. If this happens, you will need to tell the school CoMMinS contact, who will follow this up.

Our tests are at least as accurate as the tests used by the NHS. There is a very small chance that our saliva test will give you a 'false positive' result. A false positive means that the test would say that you have COVID-19 when you don't have it. For every 100 tests we do, there is a risk that less than one test will give a false positive result. If you get a positive test result and decide to take part in the Household Study, we will check your test results again.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will know whether you have COVID-19. This will make it easier for you to not spread the disease.

If we find people who have COVID-19 but who do not know because they have no symptoms, there will be a smaller risk of an outbreak in your school.

Will other people know that I am in the study?

Key school staff who are involved in co-ordinating study visits will know which pupils are taking part in the study. Other people at school are likely to know, because everyone will give their samples on the same day.

Will other people know if my result is positive?

If your test is positive, we will tell your parent/carer and the school CoMMinS contact and Head Teacher. They will not tell anyone else at your school. We will also tell your GP (family doctor), the NHS Test and Trace system and Bristol City Council Education Team. When you self-isolate other people at school might guess that your result was positive.

What will happen to my samples and information?

We will store saliva for up to a year. We will ask you if we can keep your samples for longer, for future research about COVID-19. We will also ask you if other researchers can use your data for future research about COVID-19. The data will be anonymised, which means no one will know that it is from you.

If you leave the study, we will not be able to recall your data or samples. We also have to keep some data for our records.

What will happen to the findings from the study?

We will provide monthly bulletins to your school and save them here: <https://commins.org.uk/>. We will also share our findings with international researchers, the NHS, education workers, the government and the media. Your name will not be included.

Every school will have a group of student *Research Leaders*. They will help to promote the study at school and meet with students from other schools. If you are interested in this role, please contact your school CoMMinS contact.

Who is organising and funding the research?

Professor Caroline Relton, an expert in epidemiology from the University of Bristol, is leading the research. Her team includes scientists, mathematicians, data scientists, engineers and psychologists. The UK government is paying for the study.

Who has approved the research?

An NHS Research Ethics committee has approved the research to make sure it is being done safely. (approved on 1 October by City and East Research Ethics Committee, ref: 20/HRA/4876).

What if there is a problem or something goes wrong?

If you have concerns, please contact the study team (details below). If you wish to make a complaint, you can contact research-governance@bristol.ac.uk.

What will happen if I want to leave the study?

You can leave the study at any time by contacting the study team. You do not need a reason.

What should I do now?

Thank you for reading this leaflet. If you would like to take part, please discuss it with your parent/carer and complete the consent form if you are aged over 16, and assent form if you are aged under 16, via the link sent by your school.

Contact us:

If you have any questions about the research, you can contact the study team by sending an email to: commins-school@bristol.ac.uk.

If you urgently need to speak to a member of the study team, many of whom are working from home, please send us an email with your contact number, and we will phone you back.