



Covid19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools (CoMMInS)

The University of Bristol is doing research on Covid-19 in schools, to make schools safer. We are asking children and staff from schools in Bristol to give saliva (spit) samples, and we test these samples in the lab for Covid19 infection. The test is easy to do, it does not involve swabs or needles, and it is not to do with vaccines. If your child has a positive test result we will tell you and the NHS.

1. Can you help?

We would like you and your child to help us. Please read this leaflet to help you decide whether to take part.

If anything is not clear or you have any questions, please email the study team: commins-school@bristol.ac.uk. If you would like to talk about it in another language, let us know and we will arrange a translator.

2. Why is the University doing this research?

We want to know how Covid-19 spreads in schools, and how to stop it spreading so that schools can stay open safely.

3. Why have you asked me and my child?

Your child's school is helping with the study. We are asking all children in their class, and their parents, if children can give a spit sample in school.

4. Does my child have to take part?

No. It is up to you and your child. If you do agree, we will ask you to sign a consent form. If you or your child change your mind, you can stop at any time. If you don't agree or if you stop later, you don't have to say why. Your child's education and healthcare will not be affected.

5. What do we have to do?

We will ask you to fill in a form online with your child's details. We will visit your child's school, every month, for six months. We will show your child how to spit into a tube safely. We will test your child's spit-for Covid-19 in a Bristol University research lab. We will also ask you some questions about your child's contacts (who they have seen in person recently) every month, in an online questionnaire.

6. What other information will you need?

We will ask if we can contact you, if any important details are missing, and we will ask for your phone number and email so we can do this.

When you agree to join the study we will ask if we can share your child's monthly Covid-19 test result, in a safe way, with their school, Bristol City Council, your GP, and the NHS Test and Trace team. We will also ask if we can link your child's results with their medical records.

7. What happens if my child has Covid-19?

If your child has Covid-19, we will contact you within 72 hours. We will ask you and your child to follow school and government policy by staying at home. NHS Test and Trace may contact you as well. We will tell your child's school and GP.

We may ask for your help by doing spit tests at home (if you want to). This would help us find out how Covid-19 spreads at home.

8. What happens if my child doesn't have Covid-19?

If your child does not have Covid-19, you will not hear from us.

9. Are there any disadvantages to taking part?

The spit tests will take about 10 minutes, in safe conditions at school. Filling in the online questionnaire takes 10-15 minutes each time and can be done at home. We will ask for your child to do the spit test at school, and for you to answer the online questions at home, once a month for six months. If you need help answering the questions you can ask us.

If your child has Covid-19, you and your child will have to stay at home. We know this may be difficult. Bristol City Council can provide help for families who have to stay at home due to Covid-19:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/crime-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-need-to-know>

10. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The spit tests are easy for your child to do. The test is very reliable. You will know if your child has Covid-19. This will help you and your child not to spread it to other people. It will help to keep your child's school open. It will help the community. It will help scientists and doctors to understand how to prevent Covid-19 from spreading. You may like to know that your child's school gets additional funding from the study team so that it can help with this research.

11. What happens to the information I give?

We will use the information you give, including your child's name, date of birth and address, to do the research and to check it is being done properly.

We will also use information from your child's medical records including NHS number, any health conditions, medication, and visits to hospital or GP. This will help us to find out which health problems put people at risk from Covid-19.

We will keep all information about your child safe and secure, and only tell those people who need to know.

12. What will happen to the information after the study ends?

The information and samples we collect from you and your child could help other researchers study Covid-19 and how to prevent it. We will ask you if we can share samples and information safely with other researchers in the future. You can say no.

13. Will you tell us what you find out?

We will tell your child's school what we find out. We will put a summary of our results on the study website: <https://commins.org.uk>.

14. Who is organising and funding the research?

Professor Caroline Relton, from the University of Bristol, is leading the research. Her team includes doctors, infectious disease experts, mathematicians, data scientists, engineers and psychologists. The UK government is paying for the research.

15. Who has checked the study will be run properly?

An NHS Research Ethics committee has made sure the research is being done safely. (approval ref: 20/HRA/4876, City and East Research Ethics Committee, 01 October 2020).

16. What if there is a problem or something goes wrong?

If you have any questions about any part of the study, please contact the study team (details below). If anything is wrong, or you would like to complain about the research, you can contact research-governance@bristol.ac.uk.

17. What should I do now?

Thanks for reading this. If you agree your child can help with the research, please click on the link sent to you by your child's school to fill out the first form.

18. 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 someone from the study team, please send us an email with your contact number, and we will phone you back.