



## **Covid19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools (CoMMinS)**

### **Household Study: Information Sheet for Years 7-11 (Index Case)**

**The University of Bristol is doing research on Covid-19 in schools, to understand how Covid-19 spreads and how to stop it (the Schools Study). We are asking school pupils who have had a positive Covid-19 test within the last 5 days, and their household members and close contacts (if they want to), to give saliva samples twice a week for 1 week. If all of the saliva samples from participating members of your household test negative, you won't need to do anything else. If any of the saliva samples from your household test positive, we will invite you to continue to give twice weekly saliva samples for another 3 weeks. The test is easy to do, it does not involve needles, and it is not to do with vaccines.**

#### **PART 1: ABOUT THIS STUDY**

##### **1. Can you help with our research?**

We want to know how Covid-19 spreads in schools and in the close contacts of school staff and pupils, and how to stop it spreading so that schools can stay open safely. We are asking you if you will agree to do saliva tests twice a week, at home. If the first two samples from all participating members of your household (those collected in the first week) test negative in the lab, you won't need to do anything else. If either of these samples test positive in the lab, we will invite you to continue for another three weeks. Please read this leaflet to help you decide whether you want to take part, and talk about it with others (e.g. family members, carers or friends). If anything is not clear or you have any questions, please email the study team: [commins-household@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-household@bristol.ac.uk).

##### **2. Why have you asked me?**

We are asking you because you have a recent positive test for Covid-19. We are inviting everyone who lives with you or who has close contact with you to take part, if they want to.

##### **3. Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide, with your parent/carer. If you decide to take part, we will ask your parent/carer to sign an online consent form, and we will ask you to complete an online assent form. You can say no without giving any reason. If you agree to take part, you can change your mind later without giving a reason.

##### **4. Do my whole family and all my contacts have to take part?**

No. Each person will be given information about the study and will be offered the option to take part, but it is up to each person to decide.

### **5. What does taking part involve?**

Test kits and instructions will be delivered to your house (or another address of your choice). Those involved will need to spit into a funnel joined to a tube and fill in a short questionnaire. Your parent/carer will be asked to fill in a questionnaire about your social contacts, on your behalf, and it will help if you can be with them when they answer the questions (you won't be asked to provide any information about names or places, and we won't share this information with anyone else). Collecting each spit sample will take less than 5 minutes, and the questionnaire around 10-15 minutes. We will arrange for the samples to be collected on the same day that you give the sample. The samples will be used to check whether anyone involved currently has Covid-19 and whether anyone has had it in the past and recovered.

If the first two saliva samples from all participating members of your household test negative for Covid-19, you won't need to do anything else and your involvement in the study will end. If any samples from participating members of your household test positive, we will ask if you want to continue within the study for a further 3 weeks.

### **6. Who will know my family and contacts results?**

If an adult's test shows that they have Covid-19, we will tell them directly. If a child's test shows they have Covid-19, we will tell their parent/carer as well as the child. We will aim to do this within 72 hours of the test being done. We must also tell Public Health England, the NHS Test and Trace scheme, and we will also tell their family doctor (GP). For adults who work in and children who go to a school that is taking part in the study, we will tell that school's Headteacher (or other responsible staff member), and Bristol City Council's education team, using secure methods. When they self-isolate other people might guess that their result was positive. **We will not tell anyone else in your school.**

### **7. What happens if other people in my family or that I have contact with test positive?**

The people in your household should already be staying at home with you and following government guidance. If anyone else involved tests positive, they will be asked to do the same.

### **8. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You will know whether your family and contacts also have Covid-19. This will make it easier to not spread the disease. If we detect 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 and community.

### **9. Are there any disadvantages to taking part?**

When you give samples at home there will not be a member of the study team to help you, but packs will include clear instructions and you can contact the study team if you have any questions ([commins-household@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-household@bristol.ac.uk)). If someone you have been in contact with tests positive, they will have to isolate at home with their family. We will not tell other people at your school. If other students work out that you, your family or your contacts

have tested positive, they may say unkind things to them or you. If this happens, you will need to tell your school CoMMinS contact, who will follow this up.

We cannot guarantee that there will be no false positive test results (when a test says that you have Covid-19, but you don't really have it). However, the chance of this happening is low: we expect fewer than 1 in 100 tests that we do in people who do not have Covid-19 to be positive.

### **10. How can I agree to take part?**

If you want to take part in this study, please talk to your parent/carer, and complete the assent form via the link sent to your parent/carer by the study team. If you need this form in print, or have any questions about the research, please get in touch (details below).

### **11. Contact us**

If you have any questions, please talk to your parent/carer, or contact us by email: [commins-household@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-household@bristol.ac.uk).

## **PART 2: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **12. What happens to the saliva samples and information I give?**

We will store saliva samples for 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.

### **13. What will happen to the finding of the study?**

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

### **14. Will other people know that I am in the study?**

Other members of your household will be asked to take part so they will know you are in the study, but the other contacts you have told us we can invite, will not be given your name. However, they may be able to work it out based on the information provided.

### **15. Will other people know my result is positive?**

We will tell NHS Test and Trace and your GP that your result was positive. The Headteacher (or other responsible staff member) at your school, and Bristol City Council's education team, will also be told, using secure methods. When you self-isolate other people at school might guess that your result was positive, but no-one else in your school will be told.

### **16. Where can I find out more about how my information is used?**

- By asking one of the research team (send an email to [commins-household@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-household@bristol.ac.uk))
- By asking the University of Bristol data protection team (send an email to [data-protection@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@bristol.ac.uk)).

**17. Who is organising and funding the research?**

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

**18. 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).

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

If you have any questions about any part of the study, or if you decide to leave the study, please contact the study team ([commins-household@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-household@bristol.ac.uk)). If anything is wrong, or you would like to complain about the research, you can contact [research-governance@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk).

**Thank you for reading this leaflet!**