



Covid19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools (CoMMInS)

The University of Bristol is doing research on testing (not vaccines) to protect schools and communities from Coronavirus (Covid-19). We are inviting pupils and staff from schools in Bristol to do rapid Covid-19 tests at home, to find out if this can reduce infection spreading at school. A rapid test, also called a lateral flow test, uses a swab from the nose and throat to find out if you are infected. Although a rapid test is less sensitive than a PCR (lab) test, it's still useful because it can quickly pick up the majority of positive cases, and alert you to the need to get a free NHS (PCR lab) test.

PART 1: ABOUT THIS STUDY

1. Can you help with our research?

We want to know if rapid tests for Covid-19 can be used to help reduce the risk of an outbreak at school or college. If you know you're infectious, even if you don't have any symptoms, you can take action to reduce the spread of Covid-19 infection. We are asking if you will agree to help us with our study by doing rapid tests twice a week (a few days apart) to find out if you are carrying the infection. Please read this leaflet to help you decide whether you want to take part. If anything is not clear or you have any questions, please email the study team: commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk.

2. Why have you asked me?

Your school or college is taking part in the CoMMInS study. We are inviting all staff and students currently attending school/college in person, if they will do rapid Covid-19 tests at home twice a week (a few days apart), and report their test results to the study team.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form via a link sent by your school/college. If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason. If you do take part now but change your mind later, you can stop at any time without giving a reason.

4. What does taking part involve?

We will ask you to fill in a form online with some basic information about you (your date of birth, gender and ethnic group) and your contact details. Your school will give you enough rapid test kits for you to take home and do twice a week but a few a days apart, at home, for several weeks. You will be sent some instructions about how to do it. The test takes about 5 minutes. It involves using a short swab to collect a sample from the back of your mouth and from the inside of your nostrils. You add this sample to a testing solution in a special tube (provided in the kit). You then have to wait between 20 and 30 minutes for the result. We will ask you to enter your rapid test result (and upload a photo of the test, if you can) into the online database, and fill in a short questionnaire about any symptoms you may have now or that you have recently had.

If your rapid test result is positive, we will inform the Head or other responsible staff member at your school/college, and you will also need to inform them directly. We will ask you to fill in a short questionnaire about your social contacts, to help us to understand how infection is passed on. This questionnaire will not ask about individual names or places, and your answers not be shared with anyone else.

Once a month, whether or not you have a positive rapid test result, we will ask you to complete another short questionnaire about what it's like doing the rapid tests.

5. 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 (we will delete your contact information as soon as you have finished taking part in the study).

When you agree to join the study we will ask for your permission to inform the Head or other responsible staff member at your school/college, in confidence, about any positive rapid test results.

If you develop symptoms or have a Covid-19 test somewhere else, please inform your school and let the study team know (by email to commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk).

6. What happens if my rapid test is positive?

If your rapid test result is positive, you are likely to be carrying the Covid-19 virus and you could infect other people. **You should let your school or college know straight away** (we will also let them know). **You should not go to school/college.** You should follow your school or college policy, and government guidance, and get a [free NHS test](#) in addition to taking part in the study. We will ask you to fill in a short questionnaire about your social contacts (see point 4).

7. What happens if my rapid test result is negative?

If your result is negative, you may still have Covid-19, as the rapid test is not sensitive enough to pick up all cases. You should continue to follow all current advice on hand-washing, wearing face coverings (unless medically exempt), social distancing and other precautions to prevent infection spreading. If you develop symptoms, you should follow your school's policy, and government guidance, and request a [free NHS test](#) in addition to taking part in the study.

8. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

If you know you have Covid-19 infection, even if you don't have any symptoms, you can help stop the spread, protect your family and friends, and keep your school and community safer by staying at home. The rapid test is quick, and can alert you to the need to get a [free NHS test](#).

9. Are there any disadvantages to taking part?

We do not expect any practical disadvantages to taking part except needing about 40 minutes of your time, twice a week, for several weeks.

If you have a positive rapid test result, you will have to stay at home. We know this can have a big impact on your life.

We are also aware that infection can sometimes make people treat you differently. We will try to prevent this by only telling the Head or other responsible school/college staff member, privately, if you have a positive rapid test result.

10. How can I agree to take part?

If you want to take part, please complete the consent form via the link sent by your school. If you need this in print, or have any questions about the research, please get in touch (see below).

11. Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact us by email: commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk.

If you urgently need to speak to us, please send us an email with your contact number, and we will phone you back.

PART 2: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

12. What happens to the information I give?

We will keep all information about you safe and secure, and only share positive rapid test results with your school/college Head (or other responsible member of staff).

13. What will happen to the information I give after the study ends?

We will delete all personal information about you as soon as the study is over. Your test results and other research data could be valuable for other researchers to use in the future to study how Covid-19 infection spreads. We will ask for your permission to allow us to share your anonymised research data with other researchers in the future. This means that other researchers may be able (with the right approvals) to use your research data after this study is over. These researchers could be from overseas or could be working in collaboration with commercial companies. None of them would be able to find out who you are, as your data will only be identified by a code number and any personal or identifiable details will have been removed. If you withdraw from the study later, we will not be able to recall your anonymised data. The University of Bristol also needs to store some anonymised data so that the relevant authorities can check that the research has been done properly.

14. Will you tell us what you find out?

We will send all participating schools a summary of our results, and put this on the study website: <https://commins.org.uk>.

15. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Key school staff who are involved in giving out the study kits will know which individuals are taking part, but we won't tell anyone else that you are in the study.

16. Will other people know if my rapid test result is positive?

If your rapid test result is positive, we will only tell your Head or other responsible member of school/college staff. They will not tell anyone else. When you self-isolate other people might guess that you have Covid-19.

17. Where can I find out more about how my information is used?

- By asking one of the research team (send an email to commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk)
- By asking the University of Bristol data protection team (send an email to data-protection@bristol.ac.uk).
- Details of how information about patients is used in research can be found at these websites: www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients, and www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch

- More information about data protection can be found on the University of Bristol's data protection web page: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/>.

18. 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 funding the research.

19. 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, [insert date]).

20. 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 (commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk). If anything is wrong, or you would like to complain about the research, you can contact research-governance@bristol.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this leaflet!