



## **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 children 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 by school pupils, with help from their parent or carer, at home, to help reduce the risk of an outbreak at school. If you know you're infectious, even if you don't have any symptoms, you can take action to help keep your school open and safe. 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 talk to your parent/carer, or email the study team: [commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk).

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

Your school is taking part in the CoMMinS study. We are inviting all pupils who are currently in school, to do rapid Covid-19 tests at home (with help from a parent/carer), twice a week (a few days apart), and report the test results to the study team.

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

No. It is up to you. If you would like to take part, please talk to your parent/carer about it. If you and your parent/carer both agree that you can take part, we will ask your parent/carer to sign an online consent form via a link sent by your school, and we will ask you to sign an assent form via the same link. 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 your parent/carer to fill in a form online with some basic information about you (your date of birth, gender and ethnic group) and with their contact details. Your school will give you enough rapid test kits for you to take home and do (with your parent/carer's help) twice a week but a few a days apart, at home, for several weeks. You and your parent/carer will be sent some instructions about how to do it. The test takes about 5 minutes. Your parent/carer can help you to use a short swab to collect a sample from the back of your mouth and from the inside of your nostrils. This sample is added to a testing solution in a special

tube. You then have to wait between 20 and 30 minutes for the result. We will ask your parent/carer to enter your rapid test result 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 your Headteacher or other responsible member of school staff, and you will also need to inform your school. We will ask your parent/carer to fill in, with your input, 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 your parent/carer to complete another short questionnaire about what it's like doing the rapid tests.

#### **5. What other information will you need?**

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

#### **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 know straight away** (we will also inform your school). **You should not go to school.** You should follow your school's policy, and government guidance, and get a [free NHS test](#) in addition to taking part in the study. We will ask your parent to fill in a short questionnaire, with you, 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.

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

We do not expect any practical disadvantages to taking part except needing a small amount of your time, twice a week, for a few 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 your Headteacher or other responsible member of school staff, privately, if you have a positive rapid test result.

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

If you want to take part, please talk about it with your parent/carer. If you are under 16 years of age, your parent/carer will need to complete the consent form via the link sent by your school, and you will also need to complete the assent form via the same link. 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](mailto: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 Headteacher (or other responsible member of school 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 study data with other approved researchers, for future ethically approved research. You can say no to this.

### 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 pupils 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 Headteacher or other responsible member of staff at school. They will not tell anyone else. When you self-isolate other people at school 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](mailto:commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk))
- By asking the University of Bristol data protection team (email [data-protection@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@bristol.ac.uk)).
- You can also find out more at these websites:
  - [www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients)
  - [www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch)
  - [www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/](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!**