



## **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 and your child help with our research?**

We want to know if rapid tests for Covid-19 can be used by school children, with help from their parents, at home, to help reduce the risk of an outbreak at school. If you know your child is carrying Covid-19, even if they don't have any symptoms, you can take action to reduce the spread. For this study, we are asking if you will help your child to do a rapid test twice a week (a few days apart) to find out if they are infectious. Please read this leaflet to help you decide whether you want your child to take part. If anything is not clear or you have any questions, please email the study team: [commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-rapid-test@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 have you asked me and my child?**

Your child's school is helping with the research. We are asking the parents/carers of children currently in school to help with the research too. We are asking you, as a parent/carer, if you are willing to help your child to do a rapid test, at home, twice a week, and report their test results to the study team.

#### **3. Do I and my child have to take part?**

No. It is up to you and your child. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form via a link sent by your child's school, and we will ask your child to sign an assent form via the same link. If you or your child 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 and your child can stop at any time without giving a reason. Your child's education and healthcare will not be affected whatever you decide.

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

We will ask you to fill in a form online with your child's details, and with your contact details. Your child's school will provide enough rapid test kits for you to test your child at home, twice a week, for several weeks. You will be sent an instructional video and leaflet about how to help your child do the test. Doing the test takes about 5 minutes, and involves using a short swab to collect a sample from the back of your child's mouth and from the inside of their nostrils. You put this sample in a testing solution in a special tube (provided in the kit), and wait between 20 and 30 minutes for the result. We will ask you to enter your child's rapid test result (and upload

a photo of the test, if you can) into our online database, and fill in a short questionnaire about any symptoms your child may have recently had.

If your child's rapid test result is positive, we will inform the Headteacher or other responsible staff member at their school, and you will also need to inform your child's school directly (in line with the school's policy). We will ask you to fill in a short questionnaire about your child's social contacts (it will help to have your child with you when you do this), 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 your child has a positive rapid test result, we will ask you to complete another short questionnaire about your experience of 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 your child's Headteacher (or other responsible member of school staff) if we can tell them, in confidence, about any positive rapid test results.

If your child develops symptoms or has a Covid-19 test somewhere else, please inform your child's school and let the study team know (by email to [commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-rapid-test@bristol.ac.uk)).

#### **6. What happens if my child's rapid test is positive?**

If your child's rapid test result is positive, they are likely to be carrying the Covid-19 virus and could pass it on to other people. **You should let your child's school know straight away** (we will also inform your child's school). **Your child should not go in to school.** 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 child's social contacts (see point 4).

#### **7. What happens if my child's rapid test result is negative?**

If your child's result is negative, they may still have Covid-19, as the rapid test is not sensitive enough to pick up all cases. Your child 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 your child develops symptoms, you should follow their 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 your child has Covid-19 infection, even if they don't have any symptoms, you and your child can help stop the spread, protect family and friends, and keep your child's school and community safer by staying at home. The rapid test is quick to do, 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 your child has Covid-19, you and your child will have to stay at home. We know this can have a big impact on your life. 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>

We are also aware that infection can sometimes make people treat children differently. We will try to prevent this by only telling your child's Headteacher or other responsible member of school staff, privately, if they have had a positive rapid test result.

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

If you want your child to take part in this study, please complete the consent form via the link sent by your school. Your child will be asked to fill in an online assent form at the same time, so please have them with you when you sign up. If you need these forms in print, or have any questions about the research, please get in touch (details 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 about my child?**

We will keep all information about your child safe and secure, and only share positive rapid test results with your child's Headteacher (or other responsible member of school staff).

#### **13. What will happen to my child's information after the study ends?**

We will delete all personal information about your child as soon as the study is over. Your child's 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 child's anonymised research data with other researchers in the future. This means that other researchers may be able (with the right approvals) to use your child's 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 your child's name or address, as the data will only be identified by a code number and any personal or identifiable details will have been removed. If you or your child 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 put a summary of our results on the study website: <https://commins.org.uk>.

#### **15. Will my child's taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Key staff who are involved in giving out the study kits will know that your child is taking part in the research, but we won't give anyone else that information.

#### **16. Will other people know if my child's rapid test result is positive?**

If your child's rapid test result is positive, we will only tell your child's Headteacher or other responsible member of school staff. They will not tell anyone else. If you and your child have to self-isolate, other people might guess that your child has tested positive for Covid-19.

**17. Where can I find out more about how my child's 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 (send an email to [data-protection@bristol.ac.uk](mailto: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](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients), and [www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch](http://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 paying for 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](mailto: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](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk).

**Thank you for reading this leaflet!**