

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child's school is taking part in a study to monitor infection and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a sample of primary and secondary schools.

Why are we doing this study?

We want to find out how many school pupils and staff have COVID-19 infection, how many have already developed antibodies against the virus and how this changes over the course of the year. The information we collect will help inform policies to protect school pupils and staff.

The study is being conducted by Public Health England in partnership with the Office for National Statistics, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working with the Department for Education and is funded by the Department for Health and Social Care. IQVIA, a healthcare company, are also supporting the study.

What does the study involve?

If you would like your child to take part, we would like you to complete a consent form and a short questionnaire about each of your children invited and all other household members. Once this is completed, your child will be enrolled into the study. The study workers will visit your child's school twice before Christmas and then once every half term of the current school year to collect a nasal swab and an oral fluid (saliva) sample to test for the virus and antibodies against the virus.

The study is voluntary, you or your child does not have to take part and you can withdraw from any round of testing without giving a reason.

How can my child take part?

Complete the steps below on your computer, tablet or smartphone

1. Click into this link. **This will be sent to you week commencing 26th October**
2. Read the attached information about the study and what it means for your child and your family.
3. Complete and submit the online consent form and questionnaire – your child will be enrolled in the study when the consent form and questionnaire is completed and submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact the IQVIA helpline on **0800 917 9679** or email **schoolinfectionsurvey@nhs.net** if you are unable to use a telephone.

Thank you for contributing to this important study. Your help will inform policies to manage risks of transmission in schools and identify ways to protect children and staff.

Yours faithfully,



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