

Dear Parent/Carer

Please enrol your child into this important study to help protect children and staff at school.

Your child's school is taking part in a study to assess the level of immunity to COVID-19 in school children.

Why are we doing this study?

We want to find out how many school pupils have developed antibodies against the virus and how this may change 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 the Office for National Statistics, in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working with the Department for Education and is funded by the UK Health Security Agency.

What does the study involve?

The study involves antibody testing and completing a questionnaire alongside testing. 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 that you enrol. Once this is completed, your child will be a participant of the study. Unfortunately we are not able to offer testing to children in pre-school/nursery years, so if you have multiple children in a selected school, please only register those who are in reception or above.

A team of study workers will visit your child's school once before Christmas and then twice more before Easter, to facilitate collection of an oral fluid (saliva) sample to test for antibodies against the virus.

We will also ask parents to complete a follow-up questionnaire around the time of testing. In this questionnaire we will ask about your child, their general health and their wellbeing. There will also be some questions on whether they have had COVID-19, and opinions of COVID-19 vaccines. This will be key to informing policies to help children and their education following the pandemic.

The study is voluntary, you or your child do 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 on the next page on your computer, tablet or smartphone

- 1 Go to <https://studies.ons.gov.uk/s/15XUBU/>
- 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 short 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 **helpline** on **0808 196 1270** or email **Covid-19@ons.gov.uk**

Thank you for contributing to this important study.

Yours faithfully,



Shamez Ladhani
Consultant Epidemiologist
Public Health England



Professor Sir Ian Diamond
National Statistician and
Permanent Secretary
**Office for National
Statistics**



Punam Mangtani
Professor of Clinical
Epidemiology Faculty
of Epidemiology and
Population Health
**London School of
Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine**