

February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child's school is taking part in Schools Infection Survey (SIS2) to assess the level of immunity to COVID-19 in school children.

We need to increase the number of pupils we are testing. This will enable us to provide better data, which in turn can help to keep schools open.

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

How can my child take part?

Complete the following steps on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

- 1 Go to <https://studies.ons.gov.uk/s/VZF38A/>
- 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.



- i** There is no confirmation email sent after you complete the enrolment.
You only need to enrol your child once for them to be part of the study.

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 time. **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 & Tropical Medicine and the Immunisation Department at the UK Health Security Agency, 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 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.

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,

The Schools Infection Survey team