

Dear Parent/Colleague

During 2021 our school supported an important public health research study of how Covid-19 spreads in schools (CoMMinS). Pupils and staff gave saliva samples, which were tested for current and previous Covid-19 infection in University of Bristol laboratories.

From the 6th January 2022, the study team is still inviting families to take part in further research to work out how infection spreads within the household, which is where most people have most of their close contact with others. If you or anyone you live with has a confirmed positive Covid-19 test (any type of test) within the last 5 days (from the 6th January onwards), you might be able to help with this study. If you would like to help, the study team will invite you, and members of your household and close contacts, to give non-invasive saliva samples twice a week, at home, for four weeks. The study team will deliver free test kits to your doorstep, give you instructions on how to do it, collect your samples and get them tested in the lab. They will also invite you to fill in a short questionnaire. As a thank you for your time and contribution to the research, the study team will send you a gift of shopping vouchers for each set of saliva samples you can provide.

You can hear Professor Caroline Relton, from Bristol University, explaining the research in this short video:

[COVID-19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools \(CoMMinS\) Household Study - YouTube](#)



[COVID-19 Mapping and Mitigation in Schools \(CoMMinS\) Household Study](#)

A University of Bristol funded research project, CoMMinS aims to give us an understanding of Covid-19 infection dynamics centred on school pupils and sta...

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Unlike other Covid-19 tests, the saliva tests are not invasive, don't involve putting swabs into the throat or nose, and there's no discomfort involved. The saliva test is very accurate, and has nothing to do with vaccines. You can find out more about this test by watching this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK5lpoLTfB0&t>



[University of Bristol: Covid school study - YouTube](#)

Ensuring pupils and staff stay safe when they return to school in autumn is a major challenge because there is very little scientific evidence on the incidence...

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Households can take part in this study whether they have had a Covid-19 vaccination or not. The study hopes to help understand how Covid-19 spreads and what can be done to stop it. If you are interested in taking part, please email the study team on or after the 6th January: commins-household@bristol.ac.uk.