

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 questionnaires. 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.

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 and their health. If you provide their details, we will also contact your child by email or text, to ask them to fill in part of the questionnaire. These questions will ask your child about their general health and wellbeing. There will also be some questions on whether they have had COVID-19, and their 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**

### **A thank you for taking part**

We are offering a **£5 e-voucher** to all secondary school pupils after each completed test and questionnaire, to thank them for taking part. This voucher can be used in high street stores.

## How can my child take part?

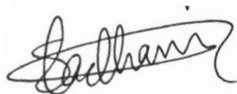
Complete the steps below on your computer, tablet or smartphone

- 1 Go to <https://studies.ons.gov.uk/s/B1MC7A/>
- 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 are 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  
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