

## The 'Back to School' study

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### School staff Information Sheet

#### What is the purpose of this study?

We want to understand the views of young people, their parents and teachers on secondary schools re-opening in September and a possible new study in local schools to test young people and school staff for coronavirus. Findings from this study will be used to support senior leaders in education and those producing guidance for schools at local and national level regarding how best to support students, parents and teachers, particularly vulnerable groups, as schools re-open. They will also help inform future research to understand infection patterns in young people.

#### Why have I been invited to take part?

We are inviting secondary school teaching and support staff in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire to take part. We are particularly interested in talking to Heads of year, or those who have a pastoral role or a role in overseeing adherence to coronavirus guidance. We are also inviting pupils and parents from the school to take part.

#### What will taking part involve?

You will be invited to take part in an interview with a researcher from the University of Bristol (Dr Ava Lorenc). This interview will be arranged for a convenient time and can be over the phone or using a secure online platform called Bluejeans. This is like Zoom, but more secure and you do not need to download anything to use Bluejeans. You can either do the interview alone or with a small group of teachers/staff from your school.

During the interview, we will ask you to share your views on schools re-opening in September including any concerns you may have. We also want to discuss your views on the potential benefits and negative aspects of a new study that may be introduced into local schools involving coronavirus testing using saliva samples. You do not need to answer every question and if you feel uncomfortable, the interview can be paused or stopped at any time.

#### How long will it take?

The interview will last up to 45 minutes.

#### Do I have to take part?

No, it is up to you to decide to take part. You do not have to take part.

#### What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time, without having to tell us why. If you want to leave the study, let us know and we will delete your interview data. However, once we have reached the stage of anonymising your data we will no longer be able to remove your data. You will not be able to be identified from anything that we publish.

#### Will it be confidential?

Yes, all the confidential information will be held securely at the University of Bristol and will only be seen by people in the research team and auditors authorised by the University of Bristol. You're your

permission we will digitally audio record and transcribe your interview and take out anything that might identify you or your school before conducting data analysis.

### Are there any benefits to taking part?

Some people like to help with research and enjoy talking about their experiences in an interview. Understanding what teachers and school staff think of this issue may help improve the experiences of school for you and young people in the future.

### Are there any disadvantages or risks to taking part?

Talking about experiences of the coronavirus pandemic and returning to school may raise issues that are personal to you. We will conduct the interview in a sensitive and respectful way. You do not have to answer a question if it makes you feel uncomfortable. If you get upset at any point, we can pause or stop the interview.

### Will I receive anything for taking part?

If you agree to take part, you will receive a £20 voucher each as a thank you.

### What will happen to the results of the research?

We will send you a summary of our results at the end of the study. Results from this study may be published in scientific journals and presented at scientific conferences. Everything will be fully anonymised: it will not be possible to identify you from any report, publication or presentation. Anonymised interview data will be securely stored by the University for up to 20 years. If you take part, we will ask if you are happy for us to share your anonymised interview data with other researchers working on relevant studies. You can still take part in our study if you prefer that your data not be used for other studies.

### Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is led by Dr Ava Lorenc, under the supervision of Dr Judi Kidger and Dr Jeremy Horwood from Bristol Medical School at the University of Bristol and is funded by NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West and NIHR Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Behavioural Science and Evaluation. The University of Bristol is the sponsor for this study. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

### Who has reviewed the study?

Ethical approval for this study has been given by the Health Sciences Faculty Research Ethics Committee at the University of Bristol.

### What if I want to take part, have questions or want further information?

Feel free to call or email the study researcher: Dr Ava Lorenc. Email: [ava.lorenc@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ava.lorenc@bristol.ac.uk).  
Phone : (0117) 92 87323.

Study website: <http://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19-schools-study>.

If you have any concerns or would like to make a complaint about the study, please contact the Research Governance team, University of Bristol: [research-governance@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk).

**THANK YOU**