



Office for  
National Statistics



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## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS (10-15 YEARS)**

### **COVID-19 Infection Survey**

We'd like to invite you to take part in a study about the new coronavirus. Taking part is your decision. We would like you to read this leaflet with a parent or someone who looks after you and ask them or us any questions you want.

#### **What are we doing?**

In this study, we are trying to find out how many people have got the coronavirus, with or without signs like fever or cough. We also want to find out how many people might have had it in the past without realising it. We are planning to include people from about 11,000 homes all over the country at first, and then similar numbers from new homes every month for a year.

#### **Why have I been asked to take part?**

Someone where you live took part in another study run by the Office of National Statistics and said they would be interested in hearing more about studies like this. For this study, we are asking everyone in your home aged 2 years or older if they would like to take part.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part in this study is entirely your choice. You are free to change your mind at any time. You can stop taking part even if your Mum, Dad or others who look after you want you to continue. Everyone in your home can make a different choice.

#### **What will happen if I decide to take part?**

A study health worker will come to your home. They will chat to you and everyone else there to find out who is happy to join the study. If you are 12 years or older, they will show you how to take a swab from your nose and throat that we will use to test for the virus. It doesn't hurt, although it might be a bit uncomfortable, and others your age are doing this at the big testing centres. If you aren't 12 yet, someone who looks after you will help do this. The study health worker will ask you some short questions.

We will also ask you whether you would mind having more visits just like this one in the future. This is to see how infection with coronavirus changes over time. You do not have to agree to this. You could agree to

- A: no further visits
- B: further visits every week for one month (5 visits in total)
- C: further visits every week for one month, and then every month through the year after your first study visit (16 visits in total)

There would be visits one, two, three and four weeks after your first visit, then about every month through the year after your first study visit. This would add up to 16 visits in total.

**What are the bad things about taking part?**

It may be uncomfortable for a minute while the nose and throat swab is being taken. It will take some of your time.

**What are the good things about taking part?**

You will be helping us find out how many people across the UK have coronavirus.

**What will happen to the samples I give?**

Your nose and throat swabs will be tested at a national laboratory using the standard test to find out if someone currently has coronavirus.

**What will happen to my information?**

We will use your name, address and date of birth to get information about you from the NHS.

**Will anyone else know I am in the study?**

No – only the people running the study will know.

**What happens at the end of the study?**

What we find out from this study will help the government work out the best way to manage the virus in the UK over the next year. The results will be shared so that others can learn too. None of this information will identify you or your family.

**I want to take part. What should I do?**

If you want to take part in the study, let your parents or those who look after you know, and they will let the study health worker know.

***Thank you for thinking about helping us.***