

SOUTHAMPTON SALIVA TESTING PROGRAMME

Latest news from across the project

Sept 2020
Edition 1

BEING PART OF THE PROJECT - WEEK ONE

Where else would we start our first newsletter of this project than with a great big **thank you** to all of you for taking part.

What you are doing is helping us understand how to better manage COVID-19 through effective testing across a large community - and what a community you are! Thanks to your efforts we have been able to test hundreds of samples and learn more about how we could scale-up this test so even more people could benefit.

A real highlight has been visiting schools to support teaching staff in delivering the interactive learning sessions with our young participants so they can understand the incredible part they are playing in keeping their communities safe from harm.

These newsletters will be published each week to keep you up to date with news from the project. Next week's round up will include news from Cantell Secondary school and Swaythling Primary school who are submitting their first samples this week.

THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS



Number of schools that have submitted samples so far

Percentage of students tested

75%



Percentage of staff tested

Volume of saliva tested in mls

321



VIEW FROM THE SCHOOL

Mount Pleasant pupils have been investigating viruses

Mount Pleasant Junior School pupils took part, last week, in specially developed lessons on understanding more about how viruses work and what we can do to stop them spreading. Years 5 and 6 enjoyed 'Escape the Coronavirus' lessons on Monday while children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed their hands-on experience later in the week. There was lots to fit in with pupils getting to grips with understanding different types of viruses and cracking a number of clues to work out which one was which. The 'escape room' themed lessons led them through activities linked to the curriculum and the current public health messages on handwashing, social distancing, wearing face coverings and testing. The lessons also covered how to do their own saliva test correctly and why testing is so important in helping their community.



DOING YOUR TEST AT HOME

A guide to performing the test at home

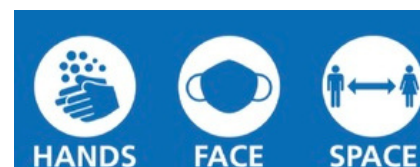


Along with dedicated lessons in school to support our young participants on how to take the saliva test at home, we have recorded a video for families to watch which demonstrates the process. The saliva test is much easier and quicker to perform than the more common swab test which is why we want to use this project to see how we can roll this test out on a wider scale.

[Watch the demonstration on our YouTube channel online by clicking here](#)



DON'T FORGET



The saliva test can help control the virus but it can't stop you catching it. We can all make sure we do our best not to spread it by following government advice to wash our hands regularly, wear a face covering and walk apart.

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VIEW FROM THE CITY*

Latest figures from across Southampton since the beginning of the pandemic

*Figures as of 26 September

1,129 total number of cases

26 Number in last week

-9 Change on last total



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Southampton Saliva Testing Programme is all about learning. By trying out this way of testing with a small number of schools we are hoping to find out what we need to do in order to make this work on a bigger scale. Our ambition is to enable all school communities to have the opportunity to be tested regularly.

To do that, we need your thoughts and feedback on what we could do better or differently. We want to hear from teaching staff, our student participants and their families about their experience of taking part either through an interview or in a focus group. Those who give us feedback will receive a £20 Amazon voucher as a 'thank you'.

To find out more or register your interest please email Daniella Watson (d.watson@soton.ac.uk)

Don't forget, it is never too late to join in. Even if you missed dropping your first test in you can still take part in the rest of the programme.

VIEW FROM THE SCHOOL

Maytree pupils get hands-on in class

Staff and students at Maytree Nursery and Infant School have enjoyed taking part in their first week of testing - learning all about the science behind coronavirus and how to test for it.

They used all sorts of different resources to help them learn (pictured left).

It's been great to see the new Year R children taking part and really enjoying the lessons even though they are not yet in full time in school!

Keep up the good work Maytree!

YOUR QUESTIONS

If you have a query about the project, please see if your question is answered on the Southampton City Council webpage:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/testing/>. You can use this page to contact the Southampton City Council via webchat or you can use the freephone number: 0808 196 2282. Normal hours are 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday (plus weekend opening during peak times). Shorter opening hours may apply from mid-October.

What is this test for?

This test will indicate if the individual tested had COVID-19 at the time of the test. You will receive a positive or negative result. This test will not provide information about any previous infection with the virus, and a negative result does not protect from catching it in the future. Those receiving a positive test should no longer provide saliva samples to the programme.

How is the sample tested?

This test is only testing for Covid-19, and tests are being conducted at a government testing site with full accreditation. Samples will be destroyed afterwards. No DNA will be extracted or stored.

Does the programme involve contact tracing?

This programme will work alongside the national NHS Test and Trace service. Positive test results will be fed into the national service in line with all other COVID-19 tests. The NHS Test and Trace programme aims to contact all positive cases - so it's really important that all contact details are kept up to date.