What’s the STORY?
(Serum Testing Of Representative Youngsters)

This information is available at www.whatthestory.org.uk in the following languages:

पੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)
اردو زبان (Urdu)
Française (French)
Portugues (Portuguese)
Español (Spanish)
नेपाल (Nepalese)
عربى (Arabic)
বাঙালি (Bengali)
Somali
فارسی (Farsi)

The Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre would like to invite you to take part in a national study to look at the levels of immunity against infectious diseases in England. This study is a collaboration between Public Health England, the NHS, the University of Oxford and Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand what is involved. Please read the information in this booklet carefully. If you have any questions please ask the study team at the Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre by calling 0117 34 20160 or email us at story-study@bristol.ac.uk.

Who are The Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre?
The Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre works within the University of Bristol and the University Hospitals Bristol and Weston (NHS) Foundation Trust and is an independent research team of doctors, nurses and researchers. We carry out research studies on prevention of infection in babies, young children, teenagers and adults, and teach doctors and nurses about infections and immunisations right across the South West region.
Why have I been invited to take part?
We are seeking people aged up to 24 years of age to take part in this study. You have been approached because you are within the age range for the study and you live in the Bristol area. If you have received this invitation through the mail this has either been posted to you by the National Health Applications and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS) who hold the central NHS patient database, the Child Health Information Service, an equivalent NHS database or by your GP surgery. Please note that the Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre has not been given your name and address.

What is this study about?
The aim of this study is to help understand the STORY of infectious diseases in England. One of the ways our bodies develop protection against infectious diseases is by developing antibodies, either after an infection or following a vaccination. We can measure the antibodies to see how well protected we are from those infectious diseases.

To do this we are working with Public Health England to collect blood and saliva samples from a selection of 0-24 year olds from across England. There will be up to 3800 participants.

To start with we are looking at COVID-19, group C meningococcus (MenC) and diphtheria. By looking for antibodies against infectious diseases such as COVID-19 we can tell what proportion of the population have come into contact with the disease. This information will help Public Health England and the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) make decisions on how they manage the COVID-19 pandemic response now and in the future.

We are not actively looking to enrol individuals with known or suspected COVID-19, but instead want a snapshot of the general population. The test does not provide on the spot results and it is important to understand that we will not be providing individual participants (or their families) the results of their laboratory test. This is an important measure to try and make this study as accurate as possible as we do not want to recruit too many people who feel they, or their child, might have had COVID-19 and ‘want to check’. This would give us inaccurate information about the spread of COVID-19 and immunity to this virus across the whole population.

Looking at antibodies against MenC and diphtheria will help us understand how well the current vaccination programme is working and in particular whether there are any age groups or populations with differing levels of protection.
What is novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?
Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus in humans. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses with some causing symptoms similar to a cold and others causing much more severe infections. The coronaviruses are mainly transmitted by large droplets from coughing or sneezing. Not everyone who has had the virus will have had symptoms.

What is Meningococ!al Group C?
Meningococcal Group C (MenC) is a type of meningococcal bacteria. MenC can cause meningitis, which is an inflammation or swelling of the lining of the brain, and sepsis. Both meningitis and sepsis are very serious illnesses which can be life-threatening. Following the introduction of the MenC vaccination there was a rapid fall in MenC disease in all age groups. However in the last few years there has been a small increase in the number of MenC cases. We want to see if this is due to fewer people in the population having high enough antibody levels against this bacteria.

What is Diphtheria?
Diphtheria is an easily transmissible bacterial illness. The bacteria produce toxins which can cause a sudden onset of fever, sore throat, swollen glands and sometimes skin lesions. It once was a common cause of childhood death. Countries that have good immunisation programmes have reduced the number of cases but new cases can be brought in from countries where the disease is active. In 2018 there was a rise in the number of cases compared to previous years, even though the people that were unwell had been vaccinated and had not visited a country where diphtheria is common.

What happens in this study?
We will be recruiting up to 3800 individuals in multiple sites across England. There will be a single visit with a blood test. Some participants will be invited to provide repeat blood and saliva samples at subsequent visits.

At the first visit we would ask you some basic information including your

- Date of birth
- Gender
- Post code
- GP information
- Ethnic group
What's the STORY?

Sero-epidemiological survey of England in 2019/2020; OVG 2019/01; Adult Participant Information Sheet; REC Ref 19/LO/1040; IRAS 263097; Version 3.2; Dated 20-JAN-2021
Do I have to take part in the study?
No, this is not part of routine care, taking part in research is voluntary. If you decide not to participate this does not affect your routine care in any way. You are free to change your mind at any time. Whatever you choose, it is important that you are happy with your decision and it is not the role of the study team to help decide for you.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
Following the blood test you might experience temporary soreness and bruising on the blood sample site.

What are the benefits of taking part?
There are no personal advantages to taking part in this study, and participants will not be provided their individual results. The information gained from this study will help us to learn about infections such as novel coronavirus COVID-19 and how well the study population is protected against vaccine preventable illnesses such as Men C and diphtheria.

What will happen to the samples obtained in the study?
The sample(s) you provide will be processed and stored at the Bristol Royal Infirmary’s laboratory and then transferred to Public Health England (PHE) laboratories where the analysis will take place. Any remaining sample will be stored by PHE and the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford, and may be used in future research related to infectious diseases. It will not be possible for you to be identified from the sample however it can be tracked if you wish to withdraw from the study. We may also ask your permission to take a DNA sample from your blood, but you can say no to this and still take part in the study. DNA samples from the study would be stored at the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford.

Why might you want to study my DNA?
Your unique DNA code can influence how your immune system responds to vaccines and infections. We would like to study how differences in people’s DNA affects their immune response to vaccines or infections to improve our understanding of how to best prevent these infections.

Would my taking part in this study be kept confidential?
Yes. All information and blood samples collected from you are coded with a study number and kept strictly confidential.
Your information would be stored on a secure server, and paper notes would be held by Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre in a locked cabinet. Only authorised study staff can access your data and samples.

With your permission, we may check your vaccination and medical history from child health records, NHS databases or your GP.

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?**
You can change your mind and withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason. If you change your mind after you have provided a blood sample you can inform us in writing and your sample will be removed and destroyed. There would be no further analysis on the blood sample.

**What will happen at the end of the research study?**
The results of the research will be published in a scientific medical journal; this can take several years. All publications from this study will appear on the Oxford Vaccine Group (OVG) website www.ovg.ox.ac.uk and you will receive a letter describing the main results from the study. You will not be identified in any report or publication and we will not provide individual results. If you are interested in hearing about other research studies that we may be running in the future you can sign up to our contact list. You are not obliged to take part in any future research.

**What should I do now if I’m interested in taking part?**
You do not need to make a decision straight away. If you decide to take part in this study, the next step would be to proceed to www.whatthestory.web.ox.ac.uk/bristol to complete the online eligibility and booking procedure. Alternatively, you can contact the research team, who will be happy to discuss the study with you, answer any questions you may have and may screen you and book the study visit over the phone or via email.

The recruitment will happen in stages, this is because we are aiming to recruit a sample of participants in your region that represent the characteristics of the population a whole. We also wish to recruit at a steady pace over the next few months to enable us to map the progress of SARS-CoV-2 through the community. Therefore we will be checking our information as we go along to see if we are achieving our aim. This may result in a delay, in us contacting you. You may be approached in later recruitment stage or potentially we may contact you to say recruitment for your area is complete. A postcard reminder may be posted to you by the Child Health information Services/ National Health Applications and...
What’s the STORY?; Sero-epidemiological survey of England in 2019/2020; OVG 2019/01; Adult Participant Information Sheet; REC Ref 19/LO/1040; IRAS 263097; Version 3.2; Dated 20-JAN-2021

Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)/or equivalent NHS database as above. If we do not hear from you after this, we will assume that you do not want to take part.

UK GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) Statement

The University of Oxford is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. 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.

We will use your name and contact details to contact you about the research study, and make sure that relevant information about the study is recorded for your care, and to oversee the quality of the study. The only people in the Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre who will have access to information that identifies you will be people who need to contact you to conduct the study or audit the data collection process. The people who analyse the information (Public Health England and Oxford Vaccine Group) will have access to the information listed in the section ‘What happens in this study’.. The University of Oxford, as sponsor, will keep identifiable information about you such as contact details until the end of the study.

The Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre will keep identifiable information about you from this study, securely for at least 3 years after the youngest study participant has turned 18 years of age. We will store the anonymised research data indefinitely.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

Once the study has been completed, all documents would be archived in a secure facility by Bristol Children’s Vaccine Centre. Files will be confidentially destroyed if storage is no longer required.

Dr Marion Roderick, or their successor, as the principal investigator will have the responsibility for custody of the data. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available at:

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/
What if I wish to complain?
If you wish to complain about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, you should contact

The Oxford Vaccine Group on 01865 611400 or email info@ovg.ox.ac.uk. You can also contact the University of Oxford Clinical Trials and Research Governance (CTRG) office on 01865 616480 or email CTRG at ctrg@admin.ox.ac.uk.

If you do not wish the NHS to use your health records for the purposes of supporting any health related research, please visit https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice to make your choice.

The University of Oxford, as Sponsor, has appropriate insurance in place in the unlikely event that you suffer any harm as a direct consequence of participating in this study. Similarly, the venues where the study will be conducted will also have appropriate insurance; more information can be provided as required.

What else do I need to know?
All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect participant’s interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the London - Surrey Research Ethics Committee. This study is being funded by the National Institute for Health Research, part of the NHS.

Thank you for considering taking part in this study.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Marion Roderick
Paediatric Consultant