

## What's the STORY?

(Serum Testing Of Representative Youngsters)

We would like to invite you to take part in a special study to help us understand the story of infectious germs and vaccines in England. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand what's involved. Please carefully read the information in this booklet. If you have any questions please ask your family, or a team member at the University of Nottingham Health Service

### Who are the University of Nottingham Health Service?

We are a team of doctors, nurses, scientists and helpers who look after adults and children, and study how to stop people from getting sick from germs using a medicine called a vaccine.

### What are vaccines?

Vaccines stop you getting poorly, and also help stop you spreading germs to your friends and family. So they protect you, and those around you.

### 'What's the STORY'?

In this study we want to take a blood test from you. We can measure the antibodies in your blood to see how well protected you are from infectious diseases.

We can check how well some of the vaccines you got when you were younger have worked, by looking at antibodies against Group C meningococcus (MenC) and diphtheria. This will help us understand the 'story' of how well vaccines are working for other children and teenagers all over England.

Also, by looking for antibodies against infectious diseases such as novel coronavirus (COVID-19) we can tell if someone may have come into contact with the disease in the past. You might not know if you have had contact before. Throughout the course of the study we can build up a picture of disease circulation and see how this changes over time across England.

We are not actively looking to enrol children with known or suspected novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we would like a snapshot of the general population. The test will not be able to tell you if there is coronavirus present at the time of sampling.

We know some people don't like blood tests, so we will use a special cream or spray to make the test feel OK. We are asking up to 3500 people to take part in our story.

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

You have been approached because you are the right age and you live in the East Midlands where we are doing the study.

### What happens in this study?

We would like up to 3500 children and young adults across England to take part in this study. If you decide to take part we would ask you and your parents some questions including

- How old are you?
- What was your birth gender?
- Who is your family doctor?
- Have you or anyone who lives with you been unwell?
- Would you would be happy for us to ask you samples of saliva ('spit') and for further blood tests in the future?

You will be seen in a clinic. Numbing cream or spray can be used on your skin to make the blood test less uncomfortable. We will send you the cream before the appointment and show you how to put it on. Here is a link to a video demonstration [www.whatsthehistory.org.uk](http://www.whatsthehistory.org.uk). This cream needs to be put on 60 minutes before your appointment for it to work properly.

When we visit a study team member will have a chat with you and your parents or guardian and then if you are happy we will take a blood and saliva test.

Taking blood can make some people nervous, sometimes it can help if you have something fun to distract you, such as listening to music or reading.

The whole appointment should take around 45 minutes.

If we see you in a clinic we will be offering a £20 voucher for travelling to the clinic.

#### Do I have to take part in the study?

No, taking part in research is entirely **your** choice. You are free to change your mind at any time. You can stop taking part even if your Mum or Dad want you to continue.

#### What are the possible negatives of taking part?

After the blood test it may be sore and leave a bruise.

#### What are the positives of taking part?

You are helping us make sure that you and everyone around you is being protected from illnesses that can be stopped. Your blood results will help see what is happening to everyone around us, however we will not be able to feedback information about your personal blood test.

#### Would anyone else know I am in the study?

No, you will be given a special code which means no one outside our team and your parents will know you have helped us. The only person we may talk to is your family doctor or other NHS staff to find out what vaccines you have had.

Study information with your special code might also be used to answer more questions in vaccine related research in the future such as testing for antibodies to other diseases that can be stopped by vaccines. If you do not want the information used in this way, or have any questions about the use of your information in the study, please inform the study team.

### What will happen to the samples obtained in the study?

The blood sample will be taken to a Public Health England laboratory where scientists test the blood. They would store any leftover sample so we can also test for the response to other vaccines or infectious diseases if need be. The blood will be stored only with your special study code, not your name. The samples will be stored both at a Public Health England laboratory and Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford. If you let us we would also like to store a sample of your DNA. This is the code that your body uses to build itself, and is different from everyone else in the world (unless you have an identical twin!). We would like to see the differences in people's codes and see if these differences affect how well people respond to vaccines or infectious diseases.

### What will happen at the end of the research study?

The results of the study will be published in a scientific magazine and you will receive a letter describing the main results from the study. Your name will not be in any report or publication and we will not send you your individual results.

### What if I wish to complain?

If you wish to complain about the way we treated you during the course of this study, you should tell your parents or guardian and they can contact us.

### I want to be 'Part of the STORY'. What should I do?

If you want to take part in this study, go to [www.unhs-research.co.uk](http://www.unhs-research.co.uk) to complete the online form with your parent or guardian. If you have any questions then you can ring or email us. You may not hear from us right away, as we are signing people up in groups. If your group is full we may contact you again if there is a later group. If sign up has finished we will let you know.

Thank you for thinking about helping us.

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