

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. Taking part is your decision. We would like you to read this book with a parent or guardian and ask them any questions you want.

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 and saliva test from you.

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

We can also look at your blood to see if you may have had contact with a new germ called 'coronavirus' before. This helps us to know how many people in England have had it. It is possible that you won't know if you have had it.

We know some children 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 asked to take part?

We are asking you to take part because you are the right age and you live in the East Midlands, where we are doing this study.

What happens in this study?

We would like to ask you and your parents some questions about yourself including

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

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.

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 bad things about taking part?

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

What are the good things about 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 us see what is happening to everyone around us, like a piece in a big jigsaw, however we will not be able to give you information about just your blood test.

What will happen to the blood we take?

It is taken to a special laboratory where scientists test the blood and then give us the results. 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 if these differences affect how well people respond to vaccines or infectious germs.

Would anyone find 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 to find out what vaccines you have had.

What will happen at the end of the research study?

When we know the story of how well the vaccines have worked for everyone taking part in the study we will tell the people who decide what vaccines children in this country should receive. We will also have a better picture of the coronavirus and know how many people may have had it. The results will be in a scientific magazine and we will send a letter to you and your parents so you know what we found out.

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

If you want to take part in this study then let your parents or guardian know, and they will get it touch with us.

Thank you for thinking about helping us.

Dr David Turner and Dr Simon Royal

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