



5th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Manchester Health Academy is taking part in the SKIDSPLUS study (COVID-19 surveillance in Secondary Schools and Colleges), which aims to understand infection and transmission of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, among students and staff in educational settings. Taking part will involve providing a nose swab, a throat swab, an oral fluid (saliva) sample and a blood sample at the beginning of the first term and then at the end of each term (4 visits). The doctors and nurses will come to the school to take the samples. Please click on the link below to find out more about SKIDSPLUS and what taking part will involve. All students taking part will be offered local anaesthetic (numbing) cream before the blood test is taken. There is a limit of 225 children per school.

SKIDSPLUS for parents/guardians: <https://snapsurvey.phe.org.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=159865735744>
Please do not share this link with anyone else - it is meant for you to consider enrolling your child only. You will have to complete both the online consent form and questionnaire to take part - this should take less than 10 minutes. The study will be taking part at school and the date of the first visit is **Thursday 8th October 2020**. For more information please watch this video: <https://tinyurl.com/sKIDSPLUS>

Please see the attached step by step guide for parents of students under 16 years of age for further information.

If you have any questions, please contact skidsplus@phe.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr K Green
Principal



STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE

1. Click the link <https://snapsurvey.phe.org.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=159865735744>
2. On first page, select your school from the drop down menu, click next.
3. This will take you to the Participant Information sheet, please read this carefully and contact the team if you have any questions before proceeding. If you are happy click Next.
4. This page gives the eligibility criteria, confirm whether you or the student are eligible by clicking Yes or No.
5. If yes, this takes you to the consent form. Read the statements carefully and tick the box below to indicate whether you agree to participate or not. There is also an optional extra to **opt out** of using leftover blood for future research.
6. Next is a short questionnaire for the participant (or their parent/guardian) to complete.
7. If you have any questions or problems throughout the survey contact skidsplus@phe.gov.uk
8. If you have any comments or suggestions about the online registration please email us at skidsplus@phe.gov.uk

Remember do not share the link with anyone outside your school. Even if they register online, they will not be able to have the tests done on the day. If you wish to enrol more than one child, you must go through the link and register each child separately.