

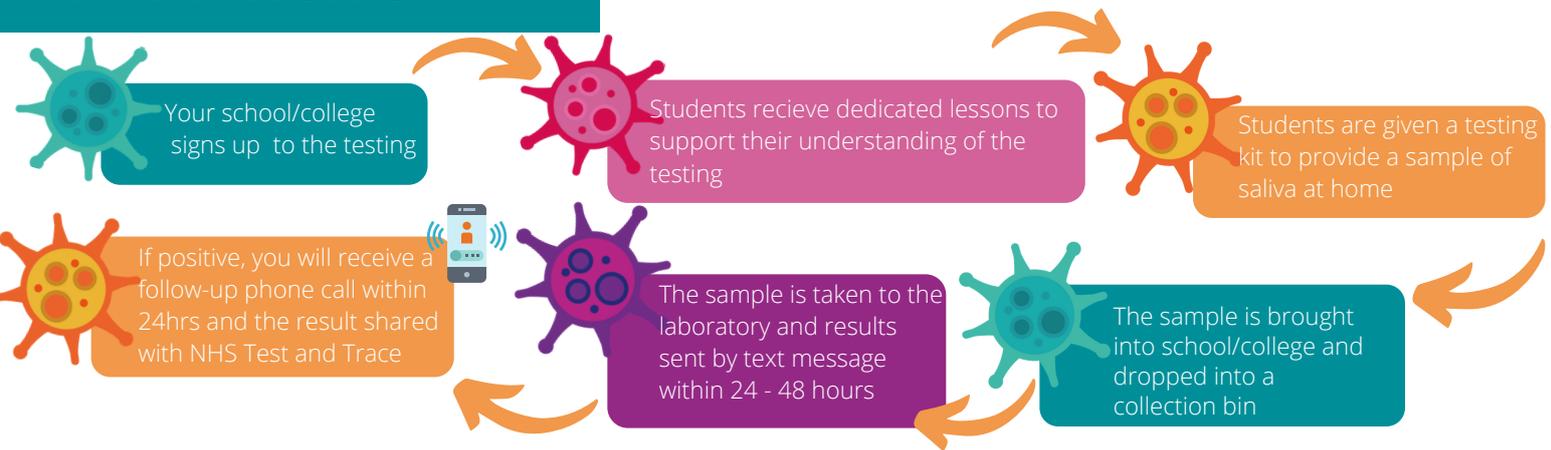


Welcome to the programme

Young people being in school is hugely important for their wellbeing and education. Whilst the vaccine roll out continues in the adult population, doing everything we can to keep young people protected from the spread of the virus in schools is just as important to getting back to our normal lives. We are therefore really pleased to welcome your school or college into our programme which involves regular saliva testing in education settings. This means that along with following the guidance, your young people will be playing their part in keeping their community better protected and help their school make effective decisions when positive cases are detected. The saliva LAMP test used in this programme is different to the lateral flow testing that you might have heard about.

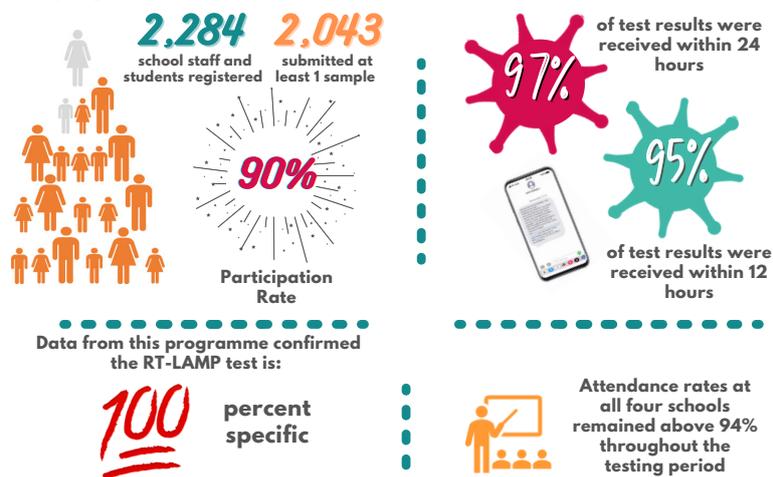
The saliva test is non-invasive and involves students providing a sample of saliva into a pot at home which is dropped off at their school or college and sent for testing in a laboratory, rather than the self swabbing process that lateral flow tests use. To help support young people in providing their samples, a series of lessons and resources have been developed which will be delivered in schools and which we hope increase understanding of the public health messages and testing programme as a whole. We hope this will also help inspire our young participants to know more about the science and careers that go into making the saliva testing programme work. Thank you for your support, we are looking forward to working with you!

How it works



Results so far

To ensure we know this type of testing is effective and works in schools, the programme has been piloted in a number of primary and secondary settings in Southampton. Here is a snapshot of the results we got from that programme. Data was collected from September to December 2020.



Data from this programme confirmed the RT-LAMP test is:

100

percent specific

Testing in over 10,000 people has shown that the test does not identify people as positive when they don't have the virus. False negative results (a negative result when the person has infectious virus) very rarely happen with the saliva LAMP test.



Attendance rates at all four schools remained above 94% throughout the testing period

Nationally, attendance rate dipped to 87%



THE VIEW FROM THE SCHOOL

The most important people to hear from are those who have taken part already - Harry Kutty, Headteacher of Cantell School talks

about the experience of the programme in this video [here](#).

Hear from students at Cantell School about what it's been like taking part in the programme in this video [here](#).

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Now your school has registered it is over to us to do all the work. The test requires the participant to collect a sample of saliva into a pot and bring it into school to submit for testing. All you need to do is remind your child to do it on their allocated day. Don't worry we will send reminders too!

If you have any questions about the programme that aren't answered in the pack you will be receiving then have a look at the 'more information' section below.

MORE INFORMATION

Along with the information you receive from your school/college there are a number of places where you can find out more information about the project, here are some of them:

- [Visit our website here](#)
- [Read more about the programme pilot here](#)
- [Watch an animation to show how to take the saliva test here](#)
- [Watch a BBC report of the programme in action here](#)