



Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: invite to help us develop a quick and easy test for chickenpox

We are looking for any children aged 3-11 years who may have chickenpox. We've been informed by your school/nursery that there have been children with chickenpox in your school/nursery. We are looking for your help to test a quick and pain free way to check if your child has chickenpox using a mouth swab sample.

Your participation is **completely voluntary** and would be greatly appreciated, but if you choose not to participate, this will not affect your child's healthcare or education in any way.

Chickenpox is common and mostly affects children, but you can get it at any age. For more information about chickenpox, please see NHS Choices - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>.

We would like to be able to test for chickenpox in the same way that we test for other infections such as measles and we are currently looking to develop a test for this which is quick, easy to perform and completely pain free. It involves wiping a soft sponge inside your child's mouth, along their gums. We would send you a kit to do this together with a pre-paid and pre-labelled return envelope.

We will not collect details of your child together with the sample provided, once you have received the sampling kit, the process will be completely anonymised and therefore we won't be able to provide you with the results.

If your child currently has chickenpox, we would like to invite you to do the following:

1. We will send a kit to your home if you email us your address on iduqueries@ukhsa.gov.uk.
2. Complete the form that comes with the kit.
3. Use the swab as soon as possible after the onset of your child's rash and **no later than 7 days after onset of rash**, marking the date of the swab on the accompanying form.
4. If this is not possible within this time, but you have another child who got chickenpox later, you can use the swab on them (as early as possible and within 7 days of the onset of the rash) instead.
5. Please follow instructions for taking and returning the swab, a pre-paid and labelled envelope will be provided

If you would like to help us or have questions and would like to discuss the study further, please contact us on iduqueries@ukhsa.gov.uk. If you would like to speak with us, please put a phone number in your email and we will call you back.

Further information on chickenpox is available from:
NHS Choices - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>
UK Health Security Agency - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency>

Thank you for your participation.

Yours sincerely

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