

# HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT SALIVA TESTING PROGRAMME

Latest news from across the programme



**13th Sept 2021**  
**THE PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS\***

## WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



A big welcome to the following new schools who have joined the programme: Portsmouth Grammar School, Bay House School and Brune Park Community School in Gosport, Shepherds Down School and Kings School in Winchester and welcome back to Redwood Park and Ark Charter Academy in Portsmouth. We hope you find the test simple, convenient and reassuring in helping to keep your school or college community safer.

### LABELLING YOUR SAMPLE



Please ensure that your barcodes are attached **vertically** to your sample tube.



**Correct labelling and bagging will ensure that your test result is not delayed**

### KEEP SAMPLES DRY

Please ensure that samples are **kept dry** by placing the large collection box indoors and **out of the rain**.

### BAGGING YOUR SAMPLE

Please ensure that your sample is **double bagged**. Place the sample tube, absorbent pad and leak detector strip (if you have one) into the smaller bag, and then place the smaller bag into the larger bag.

Number of education settings involved

**49**

**58%**

**Staff uptake\***

**Staff participation\***

**53%**

**58%**

**Student uptake\***

**Student participation\***

**67%**

• Volume of saliva (2mls) from staff and students

**22 litres**

**11,129**

Total samples processed through the lab from schools and colleges

\* Data for week beg 6th Sept

\* Uptake: Number of participants in schools/college community who have provided 1 sample

\* Participation: Number of participants who have provided at least 1 sample previously and who have provided a sample this week

## MEET THE TEAM

There is a large team of people, all working to deliver the Saliva Testing Programme in your schools and colleges. Each week, we will introduce you to a different member of the team who works behind the scenes. This week we would like you to meet Donna Lovelock, who heads up the team of school and college engagement coordinators. Donna is a teacher at LifeLab, working with secondary schools and colleges across Hampshire.



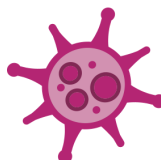
Watch Donna's video [here](https://bit.ly/HIOWDonnaLovelock)

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## New variants: why testing is so important

You may have heard about the new 'Mu' variant of the COVID-19 virus, which has been found in several countries, including the UK. The World Health Organisation has produced an excellent video to explain what causes a virus to change and how to stop stronger COVID-19 variants from emerging. To view this video, click here (<https://bit.ly/WHOC19Variantsvideo>).



One practical way we can all do 'our bit' to keep our communities safe and reduce the chance of new variants appearing is by regular testing, which can help to track down and prevent transmission of new variants.

All saliva samples that test positive in our laboratory are kept and special tests used to identify what variant the virus is and identify if any new variants are being found.

## POSTER WINNERS CONGRATS

In July we held a poster competition for local Primary School children to design posters to remind their school communities about how to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. We had some brilliant entries and would like to share all of our winners with you! The prize-winning schools were **Maytree Infant School**, **Mount Pleasant Junior School**, **Freemantle School** and **North Baddesley Infant School**. Each winner received a goodie bag, books for their school library and will also be sent printed posters to display in their schools.



## INTERESTING FACT



Did you know....?

**THE COVID-19 DELTA INFECTION IS...**

- **8 times** more likely to escape immunity gained through the AZ or Pfizer vaccines, compared to the original virus.
- **6 times** more likely to re-infect people who have recovered from COVID-19.

## VIEW FROM THE REGION

Data is from the national government [website](https://www.gov.uk), as at 9 September 2021

Hampshire:

107,659 total cases

4,531 new cases in last 7 days

Trend: **Upwards**



Southampton:

25,489 total cases

733 new cases in last 7 days

Trend: **Downwards**



Portsmouth:

23,122 total cases

840 new cases in last 7 days

Trend: **Upwards**



Isle of Wight:

10,552 total cases

474 new cases in last 7 days

Trend: **Upwards**



Go to our [website](http://www.hiowsalivatest.nhs.uk) ([www.hiowsalivatest.nhs.uk](http://www.hiowsalivatest.nhs.uk)) to contact the support team via webchat or you can use the freephone number: 0808 1962282.

Hours this week are 8.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am - 4.30pm Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday.

**#BEPARTOFTHE SOLUTION**