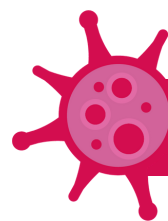


HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT SALIVA TESTING PROGRAMME

Latest news from across the programme



January 2021
Edition 2

TESTS CONTINUING AND NEW SCHOOLS ARE JOINING

Welcome to the latest edition of our weekly newsletter, designed to keep you up to date with what's happening across the programme and bringing you news about the ongoing response to the pandemic across the region. Work is going on behind the scenes recruiting new schools to the programme and we will introduce them to you in the coming weeks. In this week's newsletter read about how our programme has been praised nationally, find out how the vaccine roll out is progressing across our region and discover what is available to young people who may need some extra support to help cope with lockdown.

NATIONAL PRAISE FOR OUR PROGRAMME

You may have seen more media coverage of our programme this week after the evaluation report from Phase 2 of the programme was released. As a result of the work you all did, our programme has been credited with providing valuable evidence on designing effective COVID-19 testing programmes in education.

Data showed that the partnership involving your schools, the University of Southampton, Southampton City Council, University Hospital Southampton and the LifeLab team resulted in over 16,000 people regularly taking part. A total of 66,458 RT-LAMP saliva tests using the Optigene platform were completed and 123 positive tests were found over a six week period between September and October.

All positive tests were confirmed by PCR testing and no false positives were recorded. Ninety-five percent of results were reported within 12 hours. Feedback found students, staff and parents valued the testing highly, and school attendance increased to 94%, in contrast with reduced attendance rates at other schools locally and nationally. Health Minister Lord Bethell said: "This innovative programme in Southampton provides valuable evidence on designing asymptomatic testing programmes in education."

Read more about the programme results on the [University of Southampton website here](#) and hear Professor Keith Godfrey talking to [BBC Radio Solent here](#).



THE PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS



4

Number of schools involved



4,869*

Number of tests processed across the University of Southampton and the schools last week



12
Litres

Volume of saliva (2.5mls) from staff and students tested last week

* testing available to staff and students in school and on the University campus

HOW ARE YOU DOING IN LOCKDOWN?

Lockdown can be a tough time for young people. With most not at school and unable to meet with their friends, lockdown can be a very isolating a lonely time.

A number of organisations have put together some resources to help support young people who might be struggling with their mental health. The links on the right are to websites that have a collection of self help guides or can signpost to where young people or their families can go for further help and support.

- [No limits](#)
Download self help guides with hints and tips on wellbeing and mental health for teens
- [Headspace](#)
learn the essentials of meditation and mindfulness with our free Basics course
- [Every Mind Matters](#)
Expert advice and practical tips for all ages to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL OUT: LATEST NEWS



The NHS in Hampshire and Isle of Wight is continuing to roll out the vaccine against coronavirus as part of the biggest immunisation programme in history. Information about how the local roll-out of the vaccine across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is progressing along with information to help with answering your questions about the vaccine can be found on the [website here](#).

VIEW FROM THE REGION

Hampshire: 44,673 total cases
7,378 new cases in last 7 days



Southampton: 9,620 total cases
1,604 new cases in last 7 days

Portsmouth: 10,237 total cases
1,412 new cases in last 7 days



Isle of Wight: 4,770 total cases
1,574 new cases in last 7 days

Data is from the national government website, as of 14 January 2021.

If you have a query about the programme, please visit the Southampton City Council webpage. You can use this page to contact the support team via webchat or you can use the freephone number: 0808 1962282. Hours this week are 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.