

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

and

The Piggott School

Joint Research Project: 'Flu-like symptoms in schools and households'

This project is being led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

During the 2018/19 'flu season The Piggott School acted as the only pilot school for this project.

Following the success of that pilot, the project is now being rolled out nationally for the 2019/20 season and we are delighted to be participating again.

The project is being run under the supervision of Adam Kucharski, Associate Professor and Sir Henry Dale Fellow in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

The project will address the following questions:

- How does influenza virus 'travel' between schools and households?
- How likely are you to catch 'flu from your house/school?
- Do household profiles affect the risk of infection at home?

It will do this by giving every Piggott student the opportunity to enrol in a survey process. This would involve the completion of 3 online forms during the school year 2019/2020.

The project has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In particular they are using a secure online survey system with data stored in the EU, in order to ensure GDPR compliance. The school email addresses of participants will be used to confirm involvement and to provide reminders. This use of data will be clear on the consent form and the email addresses will not be stored beyond the end of the study period.

For further details please see the page which follows:

(Preview) Registration form: Illness survey at
The Piggott School, 2018/19

Page 1: Information/consent form

This year, researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine have partnered with your school to run a project together with students.

The research team is working with year 9 students to explain the maths and science of infectious disease outbreaks, and carry out a real-life research project into the spread of influenza.

What is the project about?

Schoolchildren and their family members play important roles in the spread of flu epidemics because infectious disease pathogens are easily transmitted between children at school, and they can bring infections from school to household and vice versa. Schools and households are crucial places for the spread of diseases like colds and influenza. However, relatively little is known about how epidemics in schools and households interact. This project aims to tackle this question.



What are we being asked to do?

Students in year 9 are carrying out short questionnaires about flu-like illness in the school. On the next page, there will be a brief survey about the number of people in your house. Then, if you or someone in your house becomes ill during the survey period (November 2018 – April 2019), we would like you to report illness in your family using an online survey form. At the end of the survey period, a short follow-up survey will also take place.

What will happen to the information I give?

All data will be directly sent to the research team in London, where it will be stored securely for up to ten years. During the study period, the London researchers may e-mail you with occasional information and reminders, but they will delete your e-mail address from their database at the end of the study. Once information that could be used to identify individual students has been removed, the dataset will also be analysed by year 9 students and may be made publicly available alongside academic publications describing the study results.

Do we have to take part?

No – it is up to you whether to take part or not. If you do not wish to take part, you do not need to fill this form. If you are happy to take part, please ask your parent/guardian to confirm that they are also happy for you to participate.

If you have any questions, by all means contact Mr Mannering in the Mathematics department via email manneringi@piggottschool.org

Thank you.