



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



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TESTING PHASE

AN OVERVIEW

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Target Population



Two populations – Maltese and Sicilian:

- Maltese students aged between 12 years and 18 years
- Sicilian adults
 - Demographics
 - Feasibility of a screening program
 - Cost-Benefit analysis
 - Assess familial relationship patterns
 - Data collection for computer decision support system



Reaching out

- Reaching the child through his/her school –
 - Support by the Education Department
 - Support by Private and Church Schools
 - School Management – key role in reaching students

- Routes to achieve Public Awareness
 - Information campaigns
 - Social Media and School Portal
 - Parents' information document with link to online registration (including GDPR Consent Form and Questionnaire)



Consent

- Voluntary participation & GDPR consent forms
- Key role of the school co-ordination
 - **Send out information document via email to parents/guardians**
 - **Agree testing date**
 - **Facilitate testing phase**
- Target testing period
 - **April-June 2023**



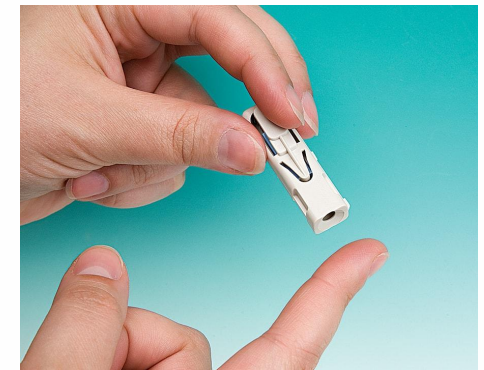
Testing day – Brief

- Trained staff visit school
- Child's Candidate Number and name checked and confirmed with school co-ordinating person
- Estimated contact time with the child is about 2-3 minutes – collection time of blood specimen
- Data input and interpretation of point of care result



Point of Care Test

- Stages
 - **Sample collection – Child interaction stage**
 - Spring loaded lancet – relatively painless
 - Collection of a small blood sample
 - Child returns to class
 - **Mixing of blood sample with special solution**
 - **Inoculation of the Point of Care Test**
 - **Timing and interpretation of result + photographic evidence**



Follow-Up

- Medical team
 - Audit of data input and result interpretation
 - Negative result : Email sent to parent/guardian
 - Positive result : Database query and patient recall
 - Offer for further testing – Parental decision (voluntary)





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THANK YOU



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