

TESTING PHASE

AN OVERVIEW

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Target Population

- Two populations – Maltese and Sicilian - two different aspects of coeliac disease being investigated:
 - **Maltese children aged between 4 years and 11 years –**
 - Demographics
 - Feasibility of a screening program
 - Cost-Benefit analysis
 - **Sicilian children and their families**
 - Assess familial relationship patterns
 - Data collection for computer decision support system



Reaching out

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

- Routes to achieve Public Awareness
 - **Information campaigns**
 - **Social Media and School Portal**
 - **Parents information booklet & Questionnaire**



Consent

- Voluntary participation & consent forms
- Key role of the school co-ordination
 - **Consent form collection**
 - **Agree testing date**
 - **Facilitate testing phase**
- Target testing period – 2 stages
 - **Pilot phase – May 2019**
 - **General testing phase – Next scholastic year**



Testing day – Brief

- Trained staff visit school
- Questionnaire & consent form collection - Data anonymization
- Child's name checked and confirmed with school coordinating 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**

- 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**
 - **Database query and patient recall**
 - **Offer for further testing – Parental decision (voluntary)**



THANK YOU

