

## Research Study: Participant Information Sheet

# Life during lockdown: Re-exploring experiences, behaviours and risk perceptions during the COVID-19 outbreak in the UK

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## We invite you to take part in our research

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This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research study. It explains the purpose of the study and what is involved. This will help you decide if you want to take part.

Please read this information carefully. You can contact the team with any questions if you don't understand or want to know more about the study.

Before deciding whether or not to take part, you may wish to discuss this information with somebody else.

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## Key things to know

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- This survey is open to anyone in the UK aged 18+
- Participation in this study is entirely voluntary
- The study involves completing an anonymous online survey by **11pm on Friday 3 July 2020**
- The survey will take between **20 and 30 minutes**
- All responses will be stored securely, confidentially and treated anonymously – the research team and others will not know which responses are yours
- If you decide you want to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form
- The study is being run by the Patient Experience Research Centre

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## How to get in touch

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If anything is not clear or you have any questions or complaints about the study, please contact a member of the research team:

**Patient Experience Research Centre,  
Imperial College London**

[patientexperience@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:patientexperience@imperial.ac.uk)

## 1. What is the purpose of the study?

This online survey is part of a research study that aims to find out how people are thinking, feeling and responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the UK.

Your responses to the survey will provide important information to help us understand whether certain groups are more heavily impacted by the outbreak than others, and what people are able and prepared to do to limit the spread of the virus. Gaining greater understanding of how people are feeling and responding to the outbreak can help to guide and improve how authorities plan, communicate and support the UK's response.

We also work closely with the Imperial College COVID-19 mathematical modelling teams who use a variety of data to understand and predict the spread of the outbreak and how best to contain it. Information on people's movements and contacts can feed into these predictions as we ease out of lockdown. Therefore, it's important to ensure this data accurately reflects the diversity of views and behaviours in the UK.

## 2. Why am I being asked to take part?

We welcome input from anyone living in the UK aged 18 and over.

We are particularly keen to hear from those who may not have previously taken part in research, those who live with a chronic condition, those who have been advised to shield (stay at home and avoid face-to-face contact) due to being at greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus, and anyone else who is being heavily impacted by the outbreak. These perspectives are critical to the COVID-19 outbreak but are often under-represented in research.

We hope to recruit at least 1,500 people to the study. However, as we are asking you to share the study with friends and family, we hope we can recruit more people than this. Please share this with friends and family to help us capture a wide range of viewpoints.

## 3. Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part in the study is entirely **voluntary**. If you do not wish to take part in this research, you do not need to give us a reason. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason. You can also refuse to answer any questions or stop completing the survey at any time. If you partially complete the survey but do not submit by the deadline (**Friday 3 July at 11pm**), your responses may still be captured but will not be reviewed or included in the analysis.

If you want to withdraw from the study after you have submitted your survey responses, please contact us on: [patient.experience@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:patient.experience@imperial.ac.uk)

#### **4. What will taking part in the study involve?**

Taking part involves completing an anonymous online survey that has a mix of multiple choice and free text questions. It should take approximately 20–30 minutes to complete.

If you agree to take part, you will be asked questions on the following topics:

- Current health and well-being
- Attitudes to risk and the measures you take to protect yourself and others
- Number of recent contacts (with different people)
- Experiences of shielding (if relevant)
- Thoughts on self-isolating and the Test and Trace programme
- Engagement with science and research
- About you (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, education level, employment status etc)

All questions are optional, except for confirming your eligibility and consent to take part.

Please note, one of the questions within the survey asks whether you or a family member in your household has been asked to “shield” during the COVID-19 outbreak. Until 1 June 2020, shielding was defined as staying at home and avoiding face-to-face contact with people outside your household for 12 weeks. If you or a member of your household were or are shielding, there will be some additional questions we would like to ask you.

#### **5. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

While there are no direct benefits to you for taking part in the survey, your answers may help improve how the UK responds to the coronavirus outbreak.

#### **6. What are the possible disadvantages or risks of taking part?**

If you feel uncomfortable about answering a question, you do not have to answer that question. You can choose not to answer any questions that you find difficult or uncomfortable. NHS health advice and information regarding the novel coronavirus can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

#### **7. Will my involvement be kept confidential?**

All the information we collect will be kept private and confidential. The information gathered during this research will be used for research purposes only. All responses will be collected anonymously. Therefore, it will not be possible to identify you from this information and it will not be possible to identify you in any reports of this work. We may use short anonymous quotes from the survey responses in reports, presentations and publications of the work but we will ensure it is not possible for others to identify an individual from these quotes.

#### **8. What will happen to the results of the study?**

At the end of the study, results may be shared in a variety of ways, including shared with the public, published in medical journals and presented at meetings.

Once data analysis and interpretation are complete and the results have been reported and shared, all anonymised study data will be stored at the Imperial College London archive based at the South Kensington Campus for ten years, as required by Imperial College policy. This is in view of the Association of Medical Research Charities' recommendation that its member charities should not fund research in institutions that store primary data for less than ten years.

### **9. Who is organising and funding the research?**

Imperial College, London School of Public Health is funding and leading the research.

**Principal Investigator:** Prof Helen Ward, Imperial College London

**Co-investigators:** Dr Christina Atchison, Dr Rozlyn Redd, Dr Philippa Pristera, Katherine Collet, Maria Piggin

### **10. Who has reviewed the study?**

This study was given ethical approval by Dr Deborah Ashby, Head of Department and Joint Research Compliance Office (JRCO), Imperial College London.

### **11. How do I take part?**

To take part in the study, please click the following link:

[https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5vcCSsDzZQ5Nyyp](https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vcCSsDzZQ5Nyyp)

The first part will confirm your eligibility and consent. If you agree to take part, you will then be able to access the full survey. You can pause and come back to it later - your responses will be saved. Just make sure to finish and submit the responses **by 11pm, Friday 3 July 2020**.

### **12. What if I'm not happy with something?**

If you wish to complain about any part of this study, please contact a member of the Patient Experience Research Centre via the contact details below. Any issues will try to be resolved as soon as possible. If you are still not satisfied with the response provided, you may contact the Imperial College, Joint Research Compliance Office who sponsor the study on [jrc@ic.ac.uk](mailto:jrc@ic.ac.uk).

### **13. Contact details for further information**

If you have any questions or complaints about this survey you can contact the research team:

Email: [patientexperience@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:patientexperience@imperial.ac.uk)

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**Thank you**

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*We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider, and potentially participate, in this study. Your contribution to this research will be greatly appreciated.*