

Study contact (England): IQVIA **0800 085 6807**
Study contact (Wales): IQVIA **0800 917 9323**
Study contact (Northern Ireland): IQVIA **0800 917 5825**
Study contact (Scotland): IQVIA **0800 917 5824**

COVID-19 Infection Survey

Take part in the biggest nationwide survey of COVID-19 infections past and present. **Your support will help guide the response to this pandemic, to get us all back to normal life.**

What is the survey about?

- The aim of the survey is to find out how many people have COVID-19, either with or without symptoms.
- This is particularly important as more people start getting vaccinated against COVID-19. Although the vaccines work very well, they do not completely stop people getting the virus again and neither does having had COVID-19 in the past. We need to monitor how well the vaccines work in the real-world, and how well the combination of people having had COVID-19 before and getting vaccinated stops the virus spreading.
- The survey also aims to find out how many people may have already had COVID-19. This is done by measuring levels of antibodies in their blood.
- Since April 2020, the Office for National Statistics and the University of Oxford have been conducting the survey on behalf of the Governments of the UK.



Study Summary

COVID-19 infection survey | Version 7.0 Date: 1 February 2021 | Ethics Ref: 20/SC/0195
IRAS Project ID: 283248 | Chief Investigator: Professor Ann Sarah Walker

Why have I been asked to take part?

- To help the ongoing fight against the coronavirus we need households like yours to join the thousands already taking part in the COVID-19 Infection Survey.
- We are not just testing people who have signs of having the virus, like fever or cough, because we know that sometimes people can get the virus without symptoms.
- Taking part in this study is entirely your choice. All the information you give us is protected by law and is treated as confidential.
- Everyone in the survey can receive a COVID-19 vaccination when they are eligible to do so – and people who have received a COVID-19 vaccination can be in the survey.

What does the survey involve?

- **First you will need to register to take part (please see overleaf)**, after which you will be contacted to make an appointment.
- At this appointment, a member of the survey team will come to your home. They will ask some questions about each person over the age of 2 who wants to take part.
- They will show those who are 12 years or older how to take throat and nose swabs that will be tested for the virus. The swab is a soft sponge on a stick and doesn't hurt. Parents or carers can help those under 12 years old.
- We would also like to take some blood from anyone who is 16 years or older. You do not have to agree to this. Blood will either be taken directly from a vein by a trained survey team member with PPE, or from a finger prick done by the person themselves. The survey team member will not enter your home unless they need to take blood from a vein.

You could agree to:

- A** the first visit only
- B** the first visit and a visit every week for one month (5 visits in total)
- C** the first visit, a visit every week for one month, and then monthly visits until April 2022 (at least 16 visits in total, depending on when you join the survey)

Why should I take part?

- The coronavirus continues to impact us all. Together we can provide vital information to help guide the response to this pandemic, to get back to normal life.
- A fast and reliable picture of infections in your area will help make sure local responses are appropriate and effective.
- Over 2021 and 2022, thousands of households will take part in the survey. This is so we can see what happens to the virus over this time, particularly as more people get vaccinated.
- The results are already being shared so that everyone knows what we are finding (www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/covid-19/covid-19-infection-survey/results). None of this information identifies you or your family.

How to get involved:

To take part you will need to register with us as soon as possible:

- 1 Call the registration team on **0800 085 6807 (England), 0800 917 9323 (Wales), 0800 917 5825 (Northern Ireland), 0800 917 5824 (Scotland)**. If you are unable to use the telephone, for example due to a hearing or speech impairment, you can email iqvia.covid19survey@nhs.net. 
- 2 Once registered, the next time you will hear from us is when a survey team member contacts you the evening before your planned visit. If this time isn't convenient for you, you can change it. We will try to contact you in the week after you register. 
- 3 On the day of the appointment, a member of the survey team will arrive at your home to complete the visit. Any team member taking bloods from a vein will be qualified to do so. Please do not invite the survey team member into your home unless they are taking blood. 
- 4 As a token of appreciation, **everyone who completes the survey will be offered a £50 voucher**. 

What do I get for taking part?

- Every person who takes part in the survey will receive a £50 voucher for the first home visit they complete.
- For every further visit that they complete, they will each receive a £25 voucher.

These will just be for visits that are completed; for example, if the survey is stopped you would not receive compensation for visits that don't happen.

What will happen with my data?

- Any information you give us is protected by law and is treated as confidential.
- All samples are collected on behalf of the Office for National Statistics and the University of Oxford.
- All testing of these samples is done by the University of Oxford and national Lighthouse Laboratories.
- You will be told the results of all tests you complete.
- The companies involved in running the survey will only use your information for the purpose of this survey – **please see Participant Information Sheet for further details.**

Further information & useful websites:

Some translations of this summary and other survey information are available on <https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/covid19infectionsurveycis/furtherhelp#study-materials-in-other-languages>

To find out more see the detailed participant information sheet that came with this leaflet, or visit www.ons.gov.uk/cis or www.gov.wales/covidinfectionsurvey

If you are affected by any of the issues raised in this leaflet or are looking for information on COVID-19 please visit:

- Coronavirus explained: coronavirusexplained.ukri.org/en/
- Government guidelines: www.gov.uk/coronavirus (England), www.gov.wales/coronavirus (Wales), <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19> (Northern Ireland), <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/> (Scotland)
- NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> (England), www.gov.wales/coronavirus (Wales), <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-overview-and-advice> (Northern Ireland), <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19> (Scotland)
- Samaritans - Emotional support for everyone: www.samaritans.org
- Mind - Advice and support for anyone with a mental health problem www.mind.org.uk