

Covid-19: Estimating the burden of symptomatic disease in the community and the impact of public health measures on physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Information sheet for Research Participants

You are being invited to take part in a telephone survey. This forms part of a research project conducted by researchers at University College Cork and Ipsos MRBI a market research company entitled: *“Covid-19: Estimating the burden of symptomatic disease in the community and the impact of public health measures on physical, mental and social wellbeing”*.

This sheet provides information about the research and what is involved in participating. Please ask us if you would like more information.

❖ **What is the project about?**

Following the emergence of Covid-19 and its pandemic spread, Ireland in common with countries worldwide has implemented unprecedented physical distancing measures to contain the virus and reduce its impact, including a national stay at home order and travel restrictions for all but those involved in health and other essential services. The purpose of this research project is to examine the impact and sustainability of these physical distancing measures in order to inform policy makers in Ireland and other countries on how best to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are conducting a short telephone survey with a random sample of people living in Ireland. It is in this context we are inviting you to take part.

❖ **What is the aim of the project?**

Through gathering information on peoples’ experience of the physical distancing measures, we aim to improve our understanding of the impacts of these measures on reducing the spread of Covid-19 and on people’s wellbeing.

❖ **Why take part in the project? What could be your benefits? Are there any risks?**

We hope that with your participation in this interview, we will be able to improve our understanding of the impacts of physical distancing measures associated with Covid-19 and its effect on individuals’ physical, psychological and social wellbeing. Findings from this project will be communicated to scientists, policymakers, and health professionals through publications and briefings. With regard to risks, there is potential for breach of confidentiality but steps being taken to minimise this risk.

❖ **What would taking part in the project mean for you?**

Participation in this project is voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to provide verbal consent that will confirm your decision. You will be asked to complete a short telephone survey, which will take approximately 20 minutes of your time. You are free to withdraw from the study and request that your data be deleted at any time, even if you have already agreed to take part, and you do not have to provide a reason for not wishing to continue. You have the right to request a copy of your information, amend your information, or have your information removed from our database. If you decide to withdraw, you can do so by contacting [Professor Ivan Perry] as detailed below.

❖ **What information will be collected?**

You will be asked to complete a short telephone survey to share your knowledge and attitudes to Covid-19 and to answer questions about your social, physical and psychological wellbeing. Other information will be collected, such as details of your age and gender, your occupation and employment status, the number of people living in your household and your potential exposures related to Covid-19.

❖ **How will my information be used?**

The information you provide will be used by researchers and policy makers to better understand the overall effects of the physical distancing and measures on health and wellbeing in the population. Any contact details you may provide will remain confidential and only available to the research team for future contact if you have provided permission to do so. Once the project is complete, these data will be compiled and summarised in a report and other publications to disseminate findings. Before any findings are entered into a report, any details that could be used to identify you will be removed.

❖ **Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

Yes, only the core project team will know that you are taking part in this project. Any information you provide will be kept confidential and be de-identified as well as processed and stored securely for a period of 10 years in accordance with national (Irish Data Protection Legislation) and European (EU General Data Protection Regulation) data protection laws. This means that we have put in place measures and procedures to make sure that your information remains secure.

- Any information that is submitted to us will be stored on UCC secure servers and all electronic data files will be encrypted and double-password protected.
- Before any findings are entered into a report or an academic paper, any details that could be used to identify you will be removed.
- Your contact details will be stored separately from the data collected in the telephone survey.
- Any information that you provide will only be used for the purpose of this project.
- Further information on the role of Ipsos MRBI in this research study and on the steps taken by Ipsos MRBI to protect and ensure your privacy is provided in a separate Privacy Notice which is available from Ipsos and UCC as detailed below.

❖ **What will happen to the results of the project?**

The information from the project will be analysed by the research team in a way that allows us to develop a mathematical model that incorporates the outputs from the telephone surveys to inform decisions on the optimal levels and duration of physical distancing measures and thereby support the ongoing work of the Irish Covid-19 Epidemiological Modelling Group. We will also use findings in an anonymised way in publications and presentations to share the information with healthcare professionals, scientists and policymakers and the wider community.

❖ **Who is organising and funding the project?**

The project is being run by the School of Public Health, University College Cork and funded by the Health Research Board.

❖ **Would you like to have more information?**

More information about the project is available from University College Cork and Ipsos MRBI:

How can I contact University College Cork and Ipsos MRBI about this survey and/or my personal data?

Contact University College Cork

Name: Professor Ivan Perry
Email: i.perry@ucc.ie with “Covid-19 Ipsos Survey” in the email subject line
Telephone 021-4205500/4205506
Post: School of Public Health
Western Gateway Building
Cork T12 XF62

Contact Ipsos MRBI

Email: dpo.ireland@ipsos.com with “UCC Covid-19 Survey” in the email subject line
Post: UCC Covid-19 Survey
Data Protection Officer
Ipsos MRBI
Block 3 Blackrock Business Park
Blackrock
Co Dublin