

Participant Information Form for Survey

Title of Study:

Creating an evidence-based toolbox for targeted public health interventions during COVID-19: a cross-border analysis to disentangle psychological, behavioural, media and governmental responses

Research Team:

Trinity College Dublin: Associate Professor Catherine Darker (Principal Investigator); Dr Nicola O'Connell; Ms Niamh Brennan; Associate Professor Lina Zgaga; Assistant Professor Ann Nolan; Assistant Professor Katy Tobin; Professor Joe Barry; Ms Emma Burke; Ms Gail Nicolson.

University College Dublin: Assistant Professor Cliodhna O'Connor

University of Bristol, UK: Professor Gabriel Scally

Queens University Belfast: Dr Martin Dempster; Dr Christopher Graham

Health Services Executive: Dr Philip Crowley

Research Funders: Health Research Board

What is the aim of this research?

We want to investigate the most relevant, feasible and effective ways to improve adherence to public health messaging to COVID-19 and ways to improve public health understanding and trust during the COVID-19 response.

What can I expect from taking part in this research study?

If you agree to be a part of this research, we will invite you to be part of a survey. This survey is carried out by IPSOS-MRBI, a market research company. They will ask you approximately thirty questions related to your experiences of COVID-19 and your physical and mental well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This interview will not take more than ten minutes. If you wish to stop at any point you may do so without giving an explanation.

What will happen to the information that I provide?

IPSOS-MRBI will store the data you provide in strict accordance with General Data Protection Guidelines (GDPR). Your name will appear once in an encrypted file which will not be shared with the research team. All other data you provide will be coded (your name will be replaced by a number). IPSOS-MRBI will share this information with the research team who will comply with all GDPR guidelines. We will not receive any information with your name on it. IPSOS-MRBI will keep your information strictly confidential.

IPSOS-MRBI will send the research team your coded data. The research team will ensure all data are kept in a secured and locked room within Trinity College Dublin. All hard copy data is kept in a secured and locked room within the university and only the research team will have access to this. Electronic versions of the data are stored on a safe, secure server in Trinity College and only the research team will have access to this.

Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast and the University of Bristol are joint Data Controllers. This means that they are responsible for the keeping and use of your personal information. Data collected as part of this study will be used in combination with other data that is being collected as a part of this study. For example we will be interviewing people in focus

groups for an in-depth look at their experiences during the COVID-19 crisis. We will also be looking at how news relating to COVID-19 is communicated in the media and also social media (e.g., Facebook and Twitter). We will examine and analyse the governmental and public health policy choices that have been made in both the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. Alongside this we will try to map this information against the incidence (new cases) and the deaths relating to COVID-19. Data will be shared with members of the research team who are based in Queen's University Belfast, the University of Bristol and University College Dublin and they will comply with all data protection guidelines.

In line with Trinity College Dublin Good Research Practice guidelines all data will be stored for ten years. Your information will be destroyed securely after that time. To ensure that the information collected during the study is correct and that the study was performed correctly, your records may be checked by the researchers, members of a steering committee or the Research Ethics Committee. They will keep your information confidential.

You have the right to see a copy of your personal data and may request that incorrect or incomplete data be corrected. You also have the right to request that your personal data be transmitted to another organisation (Data Portability)

If you need to make a complaint or seek further information, you can contact the Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@tcd.ie

For more information on how your data are protected, please see the Privacy Notice, also on the Ipsos website.

What are the potential risks of taking part in this study?

There is a small low level risk that your personal data and/or breach of confidentiality may occur. However, we have put into place security measures to make sure that this does not happen. These include not having your name attached to any of your responses, instead a random ID code (e.g., 7865) will be associated your answers instead. The way that your answers get transferred to the research team is also securely done by encrypting your answers and only transferring them through protected software.

A second potential risk is for psychological discomfort or unease when responding to survey questions relating to fear of COVID-19 infection (e.g., *"I am frightened of the thought of getting COVID-19"*) and to questions relating to mood (e.g. *"In the last 2 weeks, how often have you felt like you lacked companionship?"*). If you do get upset when answering any question you can ask to skip that question or completely stop the survey. You do not need to give an answer. If you still feel upset after the call has stopped then please contact your General Practitioner for support. If you are located in the Republic of Ireland then a full and comprehensive list of supports and advice can be found on the HSE website at the following link: <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/covid-19/minding-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

If you are located in Northern Ireland then a full and comprehensive list of supports and advice can be found by following this link: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-taking-care-your-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

If you do feel upset about any aspect of the survey we would appreciate you letting us know. This way we can try to make sure that it does not happen again to anyone else and also we can try and link you in with the correct supports. See contact details at the end under 'Further Information'.

What are the potential benefits of taking part in this study?

The main benefit to taking part is an improvement in our understanding of the public health response to COVID-19 and finding ways to improve behavioural responses to the disease.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you whether you decide to take part or not. If you decide not to take part, we will entirely respect your decision. If you do decide to take part you will need to provide verbal consent. You are still free to withdraw from this research at any time. Your details will be deleted if you decide to withdraw or if you request that your information is deleted. We can delete your contribution to the focus group up to four weeks after the interview. After this, your contributions will have been anonymously integrated into the analysis and it will be impossible for researchers to delete it by then.

What will happen to the study results?

The study results will help inform public health officials on how best to respond to COVID-19. The results of the study may be made available for publication in medical journals and for discussion at health conferences and meetings. You will not be identified in any presentation or publication.

Has this study been approved?

The study has been approved by the National Research Ethics Committee for COVID-19 related research (20-NREC-COV-037).

Further information:

You can get more information or answers to your questions about the study, your participation in the study, and your rights, from Professor Catherine Darker who can be telephoned at 01-8968510 (email: Catherine.darker@tcd.ie)

Thank you for considering contributing to our study.