

## Participant Information Sheet

### Population Health Literacy Study commissioned by the Department of Health

You have been randomly selected to take part in a study commissioned by the Department of Health. In deciding whether to participate it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what will be involved. We would like you to read this information sheet carefully and take time to decide whether or not you would like to take part.

#### What is this research about?

The Department of Health has commissioned Ipsos MRBI to complete a national survey about health literacy on its behalf. The same survey is being conducted across a number of other countries throughout Europe.

Health literacy is the ability to access, understand and use information to promote and maintain good health. Measuring health literacy is a vital starting point for identifying groups who need support to improve their health literacy. This research project will survey people aged 18 and older in different counties in Ireland about their health literacy and will feed into the HLS19 Project, a comparative European survey of population health literacy.

#### How was my telephone number selected?

Mobile numbers are randomly generated using telephone number stems known to be in operation and contacted by our team of telephone interviewers. Each number may be contacted multiple times in order to maximise the opportunity of speaking to the person who owns that telephone number.

#### What will be involved if I take part?

A researcher from Ipsos MRBI will ask you a series of questions about various matters relating to health issues, and your attitudes and behaviours towards these. We ask that you answer these questions as accurately as possible.

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and your answers to the survey will be securely encrypted at all stages.

#### What if I decide not to take part?

There is no obligation for you to take part. If you decide to take part but then change your mind you are free to withdraw at any time without having to give a reason and any information that you have given will not be used. You are also entitled to refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer.

#### What will happen to the information I give?

Any information that you give the interviewer will be strictly confidential. The data will be encrypted on secure servers. The confidential information will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the research team. The research team includes Ipsos MRBI and the Department of Health. Only Ipsos MRBI will have access to all of the data. The Department of Health will only have access to the anonymised data, i.e. the data without information that could lead to an individual being identified.

The research data will remain confidential at all times and answers of all survey participants will be grouped together so that no individual's responses will be identified. It will not be possible to identify you or any other member of your household from the published information,

research data or the retained anonymised dataset. Details that identify you will be deleted once Ipsos MRBI has reviewed and verified the data.

The anonymised data will be retained for additional analysis, including comparisons for future surveys. The data will not be used for commercial purposes or given to commercial entities for analysis. Anonymised data from this study may be analysed in the future by different researchers and health service personnel, from other organisations outside the Department of Health, under agreed conditions. The Department of Health will be the Data Controller and the body responsible for ensuring any processors keep data secure, however no personal identifiable data will be held or accessed by the Department of Health.

### **What information will I be required to give?**

The questions in the survey will relate to your age, gender, country of birth, country of birth of parents, education level, health status, healthcare utilisation (GP and hospital visits in the last 12 months), self-reported soft biometrics (height and weight), financial wellbeing, health behaviours, opinions and views related to your health literacy status, vaccinations and experience and behaviours related to Covid-19. No questions in the survey are mandatory and you can refuse to answer any question.

### **Your rights under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)**

This research is being conducted in full compliance with GDPR and is overseen by the Data Protection Officers at both the Department of Health and Ipsos MRBI. In accordance with GDPR you have the right to request deletion of your data before it is anonymised. Identifiable information will be held for less than two years.

The interviewer can provide you with a copy of the Privacy Notice for this study should you wish to view it.

### **What are the benefits and risks of taking part in this study?**

Information collected in this survey will be used to measure health literacy in Ireland, to identify groups who need support to improve their health literacy and to contribute internationally comparative data on health literacy to the European Measuring Population and Organisational Health Literacy network. It is the hope that this data would inform policies and targeted interventions. The questionnaire content includes self-reporting of health status (both physical and mental health), medical history, soft biometrics (height and weight), personal information related to COVID-19 and personal finances. Please consider whether being asked and answering these questions would cause you any distress as a participant. If you do become distressed as a result of taking part, or have concerns about your health, please contact your GP. Helplines will also be provided to you by the interviewer at any time during the survey if you request. Here are the numbers for some relevant helplines: **Aware 1800 804848, Samaritans 116 123, YourMentalHealth Information line 1800 111 888.**

### **If I have any questions or problems, who can I contact?**

If you have any questions or problems regarding this research you can contact Ipsos MRBI on 01 4389000 or by email at [mrbi@ipsos.com](mailto:mrbi@ipsos.com). Alternatively, you may contact the Department of Health on 01 6354000 and ask for the Research Services Unit or by email at [Research\\_Service\\_Mailing\\_List@health.gov.ie](mailto:Research_Service_Mailing_List@health.gov.ie)

It is important to note that whilst Ipsos MRBI interviewers are experienced data collectors and have received specific training relating to this project, they are not experts on health matters and will not be able to provide individual advice on these topics. If you have any queries on health-related matters please contact your GP or call the HSE Infoline on 1850 24 1850.