

**Title of Project: UK public experiences of the coronavirus COVID19 pandemic – online survey**

**Reference number:** Version 1, 10.3.2020

**What is this project about?**

We would like to find out more about what people think about the new coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, whether it is having an impact on their day-to-day lives, and what they think about the way that government and health services are responding to the pandemic.

**Why have you been invited to take part?**

We are inviting anyone aged 18 years or over and currently living in the UK to take part in the survey.

**What would happen if you agree to take part?**

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide to take part in this study, we will ask you to fill in an online questionnaire that takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

The questionnaire asks about: what you think about the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak and how it might affect you, whether you are doing anything differently at the moment in response to the current situation, what information you have had and what you think of this, and whether you are worried about your health at the moment. We will also ask you for some background information about yourself so that we can understand more about who has taken part in our survey.

We plan to repeat this survey in three months and in twelve months so that we can see how things develop over time. We also plan to run a small number of informal interviews over the telephone to find out more about people’s experiences during this pandemic. At the end of the survey, we will ask you whether you would be willing for us to contact you with more information about these follow-up surveys and interviews. If you are interested in these next stages of this study, we will ask you to provide us with your contact details. Your details will not be used for any other purposes or be shared with any third parties.

**Are there any risks?**

The questionnaire asks about issues that could potentially be distressing. Please remember that you are free to withdraw from study at any time and can skip any questions that you don’t want to answer, and your answers will be kept confidential.

For current up-to-date information on the coronavirus COVID-19 infection in the UK, please visit:

* <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>
* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

If you would like support with any of the issues raised in the questionnaire, you can contact:

* Your GP or another member of your healthcare team
* Mind – promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems. Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm), website: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk/)

**What happens to the results of the study?**

We will use what you tell us in the survey to help us how people think, feel and behave during the COVID-19 outbreak in the UK. We will provide people working on the COVID-19 response (e.g. NHS & public health organisations) with early access to our reports so that they have access to the findings as quickly as possible. We will write a final report on what we find, and will prepare an article for an academic journal. We will also use the findings for teaching purposes. It will not be possible to identify any individuals from these reports.

**Are there any benefits from taking part?**

There aren’t any direct benefits to you of taking part in this study. By taking part you will be helping us understand people’s experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how this might inform response plans for this and future pandemics.

**What happens next?**

If you would like to take part, you will be asked to complete an online survey. This takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. The topics covered in the survey include some background information about you and your health, your experiences of the COVID-19 outbreak to date, how you feel about COVID-19, what you think of the UK response to the pandemic so far, and whether you have changed your usual behaviour in response to the outbreak. You will not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer.

At the end of the survey, you will be asked whether you would be willing to take part in follow-up surveys over the next 12 months, and whether you would be willing for a researcher to contact you with information about an informal interview. Taking part in these next stages of the study are completely voluntary and the research team will not contact about this you unless you have given them permission to do so. If after providing your details you change your mind and do not want to take part in a follow-up interview please contact the research team ([COVID19publicsurvey@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:COVID19publicsurvey@cardiffmet.ac.uk)) or the School Research and Innovation Support Office at Cardiff Metropolitan University (cshsresoffice@cardiffmet.ac.uk).

**How we protect your privacy:**

Everyone working on the study will respect your privacy. We have taken very careful steps to make sure that you cannot be identified from any of the information that we have about you. If you would like to withdraw your responses to the survey whilst still completing it, then you will need to exit the browser. We will only have access to your personal data (e.g. name, e-mail address) if you have provided it at the end of the survey if you have indicated that you would like to take part in an interview/be kept up to date with our research. This will be kept completely confidential, will be stored separately from your survey data, and will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team. If after providing your contact details you would like to withdraw from the study please contact the School Research and Innovation Support Office at Cardiff Metropolitan University ([cshsresoffice@cardiffmet.ac.uk)](mailto:cshsresoffice@cardiffmet.ac.uk)).’ After completion of the study, an anonymised data set with all potentially identifiable data will be used by the research team and students working directly under our supervision for analysis. It will not be possible to identify any individuals from this data set.

**Who is organising and funding this study?**

Dr Rhiannon Phillips at Cardiff Metropolitan University is leading this study, working in collaboration with colleagues at Cardiff Metropolitan University and Cardiff University. We have not received any external funding for this study.

**Further information**

If you have any questions about the research or how we intend to conduct the study, please contact:

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