

Virus Watch

Participant Information Sheet

Children aged 6-9 years V7

11.08.21

The COVID-19 virus has changed all of our lives. Schools have been closing on and off across the country and many people switched to working from home and not going out. Others are not able to work. This is all to try to stop the virus from spreading and making people ill.

We are inviting you to take part in a research study so that we can learn more about this virus. This will help scientists to work out how we can stop the virus from doing so much harm. Please read this information, discuss it with an adult, and then decide if you want to take part.

What is the study about?

This research study is about the new coronavirus- COVID-19. COVID is new, so there are some things we know but lots of things we don't know.

WHAT DO WE ALREADY KNOW ABOUT COVID-19	WHAT DON'T WE KNOW AND HOPE VIRUS WATCH WILL FIND OUT
✓ We know that grown-ups often get a cough and a high temperature when they get COVID.	✗ We don't know whether children have different symptoms like tummy ache, diarrhoea or feeling sick.
✓ We know that COVID has made some adults very ill but that children are extremely unlikely to get very ill with COVID.	✗ We don't know how many people just get a mild illness a bit like a cold or if children can catch COVID without getting ill at all.
✓ We know that our bodies remember some infections so they can fight them off in future.	✗ We don't know if getting COVID once will stop you from getting it again.

If you have any queries, please contact the UCL Virus Watch Project Manager: viruswatch@ucl.ac.uk
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✓ We know that COVID can spread very easily.	✗ We don't know how often children spread COVID.
✓ We know the government has given us lots of advice to stop COVID from spreading.	✗ We don't know how much people are able to follow this advice.

Why do you want me to take part?

The Virus Watch study needs everybody in each household to take part so it is very important that we include children and young people as well as grown-ups.

We need to know how many children and young people get COVID and whether they spread it to others in the house. This means we would like everyone in your household to take part.

This will help us understand how useful it is to close schools, how long they need to close for and when this should happen.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. You can leave the study at any time and you don't have to give us a reason.

What will I need to do?

At the start of the study, an adult in your household will answer some questions about you. We want to know how old you are and whether you have any medical conditions like asthma.

The study has two parts; these are:

- 1) Online illness reporting study** - Whenever anyone in your house is sick with coughs and colds and other signs that could be COVID they will need to write down how they are feeling every day that they are ill. Your family can help you with this. Each week an adult in your house will get an e-mail asking them to say whether or not anyone was ill and to record their symptoms on a computer survey.

We would also like to understand how all of the different rules about COVID-19 are affecting your family's life- we will ask an adult in your house about this every month.

- 2) We would like to examine your medical records** to record any doctor or hospital visits related to respiratory infections and any positive swab test results that you may

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have received. We may do this for up to 5 years after the end of the study. This is because we expect this virus to come back each winter.

How long will this study go for?

This study will run until June 2022.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any more questions you can ask an adult to send us an email to:
viruswatch@ucl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading about Virus Watch