

## FAQs

### COVID-19 RESPPONSE: Rapid Evidence Study of a Provincial Population Based Cohort for Gender and Sex

#### **1. How will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

Participant confidentiality will be ensured and respected. Your rights and privacy are legally protected by federal and provincial laws that require safeguards to ensure that your privacy is maintained.

If you decide to partake in this study, you will be assigned a unique study number. This number will be used on any research-related information (including DBS and salivary samples) collected about you during the course of this study, so that your identity will be kept confidential. Your saliva and DBS samples will be stored in a freezer at the Vaccine Evaluation Centre at BC Women's Hospital for a maximum of 10 years. After this 10-year period, your samples will be destroyed.

Your survey data and a copy of your informed consent will be stored on REDCap - a database that meets strict hospital-level privacy and security standards. Information that contains your identity will remain only with the Principal Investigator and/or her designate for the purpose of monitoring the research. No information that discloses your identity will be removed or released without your consent unless required by law.

#### **2. Who will use the data and what for?**

This study is being led by Drs. Lori Brotto, Gina Ogilvie, Angela Kaida, and Liisa Galea and the Women's Health Research Institute, and is funded by a donation from the BC Women's Health Foundation. The study team and its funders will use the results of this study to help inform public health decisions and policies related to COVID-19, and to help inform policies and responses to future pandemics. Results of the study may be published online, in scientific journal articles, and presented at national or international conferences. Your participation will always remain strictly confidential, and your name will never appear in any publication of the results.

#### **3. Is this study only open to BC residents?**

Yes, you must be a current resident of British Columbia to participate in this study.

**4. Is this study just for women living with HIV?**

No, the RESPPONSE Project will recruit a diverse population of adults aged 25-69 who are residents of British Columbia. This includes individuals who are living with HIV, as well as those who are not.

**5. When will recruitment start?**

The RESPPONSE Project will begin recruiting participants in late August 2020.

**6. How long will the survey take to complete?**

The survey will take about 30-45 minutes to complete.

**7. Can my friend participate in this study?**

At this time participation in the RESPPONSE Project is only open to individuals who have been contacted by the RESPPONSE research team. This is to ensure we have the most representative sample of British Columbia residents as possible. At a later date, we may expand the study and open up participation to anyone who is interested. We encourage you to check the RESPPONSE study website for updates, at: <http://whri.org/covid-19-respponse-study/>. You can also contact the study research assistant at [covid19study@cw.bc.ca](mailto:covid19study@cw.bc.ca).

**8. Why is my address and postal code being collected?**

The RESPPONSE study team recognizes that different communities within British Columbia may have been impacted differently by COVID-19. We are collecting your address and postal code so that we can identify where in British Columbia you live and mail you a self collection kit to test for current and past COVID-19 infection.

**9. What are my Dry Blood Spot (DBS) and Salivary samples going to be used for?**

We are collecting DBS samples to test for antibodies to COVID-19 which may indicate a past infection. We are collecting Salivary samples to test for current COVID-19 infection. After testing, your samples will be destroyed.

**10. Will I get the results of my Dry Blood Spot (DBS) and Salivary samples?**

Yes. Working in partnership with public health, if your test indicates you may have had a past or present COVID-19 infection your results and what they mean will be reported to you by a nurse or a physician over the phone. If the results show you have no evidence of current or past infection, results will be sent to you in an email. Please be aware that it may take 1-2 weeks for us to receive your sample in the mail.

**11. When can I expect to receive my Dry Blood Spot (DBS) and Salivary sample collection kits?**

It may take up to 8 weeks for you to receive your sample collection kit after you complete the survey, depending upon your location within British Columbia. Please feel free to contact the study research assistant, at [covid19study@cw.bc.ca](mailto:covid19study@cw.bc.ca) if you have any questions or concerns about the whereabouts of your study kit.

**12. Will my participation in the COVID-19 RESPPONSE project require any follow-up?**

You will be given the option to participate in the long-term component of the COVID-19 RESPPONSE project. We plan to send out additional surveys and collection kits to anyone who was found to have COVID-19, as well as a subset of individuals who were not. This follow-up would happen at 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, and 12 months. Your participation in any component of this study is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time by contacting [covid19study@cw.bc.ca](mailto:covid19study@cw.bc.ca).

**13. I consented to complete additional surveys in the future (long-term component of the study) but I never received any. Why?**

You *may* be contacted with additional surveys if you consented to the long-term component of the study. However, not everyone who signs up for the longitudinal component of the RESPPONSE Project will be contacted.

**14. Will I be asked to self-isolate if I test positive for a current COVID-19 infection?**

If your saliva sample shows that you have a current COVID-19 infection, the RESPPONSE team is legally required to inform the appropriate regional Medical Health Officer (MHO). The MHO will advise on clinical management and whether or not self-isolation or other protective measures are required.

**15. Will this study reimburse me?**

To thank you for your participation in the COVID-19 RESPONSE Project, you will be automatically entered into a draw to receive a \$100 e-gift card for completing the surveys and self-collection kit. 200 participants will be selected. The gift card will be sent to you via email. For each of the longitudinal activities (3, 6, 9, or 12 months) that you complete, you will be entered in an additional draw for a \$100 e-gift card.

#### **16. When will we see the data/results?**

Study results and findings will be posted on the study website at <http://whri.org/covid-19-response-study/> after the research is completed.

#### **17. Who can I contact with additional questions about study procedures that are not addressed here?**

If you have any questions or desire further information about this study before or during participation, you can contact the study Research Assistant at [covid19study@cw.bc.ca](mailto:covid19study@cw.bc.ca) or by calling 604-875-2424 x 4665. Please note that response time is shorter for inquiries submitted by email than by phone. If you have already submitted an email, please do not submit the same inquiry through our phone-line.

In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1. For mental health support, please call 310-6789.