



## Participant Survey Information Statement – Patients

<b>HREC Project Number:</b>	RCH HREC 72845		
<b>Short Name of Project:</b>	COVID Vaccine Preparedness		
<b>Full Name of Project:</b>	COVID Vaccine: Key cohort preparedness and communication strategies		
<b>Principal Researcher:</b>	Associate Professor Margie Danchin		
<b>Version Number:</b>	2.0	<b>Version Date:</b>	08/02/2021

Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Statement. We would like to invite you to take part in the COVID Vaccine Preparedness study.

### 1. What is the study about?

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has deeply affected all Victorians. COVID-19 vaccines will soon become available. Understandably, some people have questions about the vaccines and how they will be distributed.

Clear and reliable information is important to answer people's questions and build trust. To design this communication strategy, we need to hear directly from people who will likely be prioritised to receive COVID-19 vaccines. These groups include people aged 70 years and older, and adults with chronic or underlying health conditions. These health conditions may include heart disease, respiratory conditions, cancer, diabetes, immunocompromising conditions, or chronic kidney or liver disease.

We're conducting the COVID Vaccine Preparedness study because we want to understand the questions, concerns, information needs, and decision-making factors of people prioritised to receive COVID-19 vaccines. With involvement from participants, we will use this information to develop communication messages and strategies for the Victorian Department of Health (DH). This will help DH give clear and accurate information to Victorians to help them make decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

### 2. Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being invited to take part in this study because you live in Victoria and you are 70+ years old or you are aged 18-69 with a chronic or underlying health condition that means you may be prioritised to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. You may belong to a general practice that is helping us share this study information, or



you may have seen an advertisement for the study online.

### 3. Who is running the study?

This study is led by A/Prof Margie Danchin at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Co-investigators include:

- A/Prof Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis, Dr Ruby Biezen and Prof Lena Sanci (Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne)
- Prof Simon Bell (Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University)
- Prof Julie Leask (Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney)
- A/Prof Holly Seale (School of Population Health, University of New South Wales)
- A/Prof Jane Munro (Murdoch Children's Research Institute)

### 4. Who is funding this study?

The Victorian Department of Health (DH).

### 5. What does participation involve?

#### a. Online survey

We will ask you to complete a short online survey which will take about 10 minutes. This survey will ask your age and whether you have a chronic or underlying health condition that may mean you are prioritised for COVID-19 vaccination. The survey will ask what you think about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines. It will also ask you how and where you prefer to get important vaccination information.

This survey can be completed anonymously. However, if you would like to be entered into a draw to win one of eight \$75 digital Coles gift vouchers, we will ask you to provide an email address. This is entirely optional.

At the end of the survey, you will also be asked if you would like to provide your consent for us to contact you about other optional parts to the study. You do not have to participate in these optional extra parts of the study. They are:

- **Interview** – You may provide your contact details if you'd like to be invited to take part in a telephone or online interview. These interviews will gather in-depth information about your COVID-19 vaccine information needs and communication preferences. We will not interview every participant who provides their contact details. If you are selected to participate in an interview, the research team will contact you to discuss participation in detail and obtain your consent. There will be one interview per participant and it will take around 30 minutes.

If you participate in an interview, you may be invited to take part in a focus group as well. This will be explained to you in full when you are contacted about the interview. Focus group participants will discuss and help develop resources and communication strategies for the COVID-19 vaccination program.

- **Future Research** – You may also provide your contact details if you are willing to be contacted about participating in future research related to COVID-19 vaccination, such as additional surveys to track

vaccine sentiment and inform communication materials. If you provide your contact details now, you can still decide not to participate later.

## 6. How will my personal information be protected?

You may choose to complete the survey anonymously, providing no identifying personal information. You may also choose to provide your email address to enter the prize draw, or you may provide your contact details if you are willing to take part in an interview or other future research.

In this study, all information we collect is for research purposes only. Any information we collect that can identify you will be treated as confidential and will be securely stored at all times. This information will be used only in this study and other COVID-19 related research that you consent to being contacted about. We can pass on the information only with your permission, except as required by law. We will store all information securely in the Vaccine Uptake group at the MCRI.

People in the following groups may access information collected in this study:

- the COVID Vaccine Preparedness research team who are working on this study
- the Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee

To advance science, medicine and public health, we may also need to share your **de-identified** data with other ethically approved research projects, biobanks, or medical journals. If we need to do this, we will remove identifying details such as your name and contact details, and replace these with a special code number. Only the study team will be able to match your identifying information to this code. You have the right to access and correct the information we collect and store about you in line with Australian and Victorian law. Please contact us if you would like to access this information.

Strict security measures will protect your information at all times. However, despite our best efforts, there is a small chance that you could be identified by people outside of this study if you have provided your contact details. In the unlikely event that this happens, someone from the research team will contact you. If, at any point, you think that you may have been re-identified, please let us know.

The information collected in this study will be stored by the research team for least 5 years. Following this period, the information may be destroyed or kept indefinitely. The study findings may be presented in technical reports, at scientific conferences and meetings, and reported in peer reviewed science and medical journals. Only aggregated, de-identified study findings will be presented to protect participants' anonymity.

## 7. What are the possible risks of participating in the COVID Vaccine Preparedness study?

Participating in this study may not directly benefit you. We intend for this research to benefit the public by helping the Victorian government to produce useful information about COVID-19 vaccination.

One possible inconvenience of participating in this study is the time required to complete the survey, interview and focus group.

The survey will ask you about your experiences with COVID-19 and concerns about the upcoming vaccination program. Thinking about these things may cause you to become upset. If you feel worried or would like further support, we recommend contacting your health care provider. There are also many community supports available to you during this time. Some of these are listed below.

- Lifeline Australia: [We're here for you](#) or 13 11 14
- Head to Health: <https://headtohealth.gov.au/covid-19-support/covid-19>
- Beyond Blue: [Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service](#)
- North western Melbourne: [CAREinMIND](#)

### 8. Do I have to take part?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Your decision to participate or not in any aspect of this study will have no impact on the health care that you receive, if any is provided. You can decline to answer any questions without giving a reason. If you choose not to participate at any stage, there will not be any negative consequences.

### 9. Can I withdraw from the study?

If you give your consent and later change your mind, that's okay. You can withdraw from the COVID Vaccine Preparedness study at any time. You do not need to tell us why you want to withdraw. You can withdraw from the survey at any time by simply closing the window. If you withdraw, we will use any information already collected from you unless you tell us not to.

If you withdraw from the study during or after participating in an interview, at the time of withdrawal, we will ask you to select one of the options below so that we are clear about what you would like us to do with your information:

**OPTION 1 - No further contact with you**, but the research team has permission to retain and use your information.

**OPTION 2 - No further contact with you** and the research team cannot use, and must permanently and securely destroy, any information that you have given us. Information about you would not be included in any future analyses, however, it will be impossible to remove your data from completed analyses if this has been conducted at the time you withdraw. It is not possible to remove your data from a focus group after you have participated in it.

These options will be explained again in more detail if you are invited to participate in an interview.

### 10. Will I be reimbursed for my time or expenses?

Participants who submit completed surveys and provide their contact details will be given the option to enter to win one of eight \$75 digital Coles gift cards. Interview participants will receive a \$50 gift card. Focus group participants will also receive a \$50 gift card. No further payment or re-imburement will occur.

### 11. Will we be informed of the results when study is finished?

We will send a link to a summary of the study findings to your phone or email address if you have provided your contact details in the survey. If you complete the survey anonymously, you can access a summary of the study findings on our webpage, at <https://www.mcri.edu.au/research/themes/infection-and-immunity/vaccine-uptake> We will not make your individual results available.

### 12. Who has reviewed the research project?

The Royal Children's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

**13. Who should I contact for more information?**

If you have any questions about the study, you can contact Dr Jessica Kaufman who is coordinating the COVID Vaccine Preparedness study on (03) 9345 4890 or email [COVIDVaccine@mcri.edu.au](mailto:COVIDVaccine@mcri.edu.au)

**14. How do I complete the survey?**

If you are happy with the information explained here, do not have any extra questions, and would like to participate, please complete the following survey.

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours sincerely



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Paediatrician, Department of General Medicine, The Royal Children's Hospital

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by **RCH Research Ethics & Governance** in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures [**HREC 72845**]. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time.

You can contact the Director of Research Ethics & Governance at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne if you:

- have any concerns or complaints about the project
- are worried about your rights as a research participant
- would like to speak to someone independent of the project.

The Director can be contacted by telephone on (03) 9345 5044.