



ONLINE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Exploring the community perceptions and practices around pandemic coronavirus disease (COVID-2019)

1. What is the research study about?

Researchers from UNSW Sydney, University of Sydney, Newcastle University are undertaking this new study aimed at examining your understanding, feelings and attitudes towards the current COVID-19 situation. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

We are interested to find out your thoughts on the situation. We are hoping to use the results of this study to develop new strategies to communicate to the public about this situation.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- *Dr Holly Seale, UNSW Sydney*
- *Professor Julie Leask, University of Sydney*
- *Dr Susan Thomas, University of Newcastle*
- *Dr Katarzyna Bolsewicz, University of Newcastle*
- *Associate Professional Anita Heywood, UNSW Sydney*
- *Dr Meru Sheel, The Australian National University*

Research Funder: This research has not received any funding.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- Are aged 18 years and above
- Able to read and complete the survey in English

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. Your decision will not affect your relationship with The University of New South Wales or with any of the other universities. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this information carefully. A copy of this form is available at <https://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/research/projects>

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you decide to take part in the research study, you will be asked to complete the online survey, which will ask you questions about your attitudes towards the COVID-19 pandemic, about your perceptions regarding your personal risk and also around your willingness to adopt the recommended measures to reduce risk. In addition, we would like to collect some basic demographic information about you. The survey will not collect any information that will identify you. We expect the survey to take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete.

Reimbursement for your participation will be as per the information provided by QOR.

6. What are the possible benefits to participation?

The information we get from this research study may help to guide future approaches about promoting/discussing vaccination with adults. You will probably not get any personal benefits from participating. If you would like further information about the topics covered in the survey, we encourage you to look at our State/Territory health department website which will have up to date information about the situation.

7. What will happen to information about me?

Submission of the online questionnaire is an indication of your consent. By clicking the submit button, you are providing your permission for the research team to use your anonymous survey responses for the



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research study. The data collected during this study will be stored for 7 years after the completion of the research. No personal information will be collected in the questionnaire so none will be stored as data. The researchers may use the collected survey data for other projects or may provide it to other researchers who are interested in analysing the data. Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.

8. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intend to publish and/ report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you. You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. If you would like a short summary of the study findings, please email Dr Holly Seale at h.seale@unsw.edu.au

9. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do this by closing the questionnaire. If you withdraw from the research, we will destroy any information that has already been collected. Once you have submitted the questionnaire however, we will not be able to withdraw your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact

Name	Holly Seale
Position	Senior Lecturer
Telephone	02 9385 3129
Email	h.seale@unsw.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

Complaints Contact

Position	Human Research Ethics Coordinator
Telephone	+ 61 2 9385 6222
Email	humanethics@unsw.edu.au
HC Reference Number	HC200190



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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Declaration by the participant

By checking the I agree/start questionnaire option below:

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet
- I provide my consent for my anonymous survey data to be used for the purpose of this research study
- I provide my consent for my anonymous survey data to be used in future studies.
- I understand that if necessary, I can ask questions and the research team will respond to my questions.
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time prior to submitting the completed survey and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;

I agree, start questionnaire