

ASSENT FORM FOR CHILDREN 7 – 15 years of age

Title of Study: COVID-19 Cohort Study (CCS): Study of the epidemiology of COVID-19 in healthcare workers and their households

Investigators

Dr. Mark Loeb, Hamilton Health Sciences & McMaster University

Dr. Marek Smieja, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton & McMaster University

Why are we doing this study?

We would like to find out more about COVID-19. We want to know how often COVID-19 is spread between people who live together and whether there are germs or cells in our noses that protect us from COVID-19.

Why am I being asked to join the study?

You are being asked to join the study because your mom or dad has joined. If you join too, it will help us learn more about how COVID-19 spreads in people's homes.

What if I have questions?

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have. If you join the study, you can ask questions at any time. Just tell the researcher that you have a question.

If you have any questions about this study please feel free to ask Brenda Coleman at 647-267-2413.

If I am in the study what will happen to me?

If you agree to join this study, you will be asked to do two things.

- First, if someone in your home gets COVID-19 or a cold, we ask that you or your parents swab your nose and put a small piece of paper in your nose to collect germs and cells. We ask that you do this 4 or 5 times (about every second day).
- Second (optional): If you agree, we ask that you self-collect blood samples to see if your body made special cells to attack COVID-19. You have several choices about this option. You can agree to be in the study and not collect any blood samples. You can decide to collect several samples (about twice per year) or you can agree to collect the blood samples now and change your mind later.

Collecting the blood is similar to how people with diabetes check their blood sugar levels: you prick your finger and put blood drops on a special card. The pin prick will cause pain for a short time and you may have some bruising. If you don't get enough blood the first time, some people need to prick a second finger.

The study will last until the end of this new virus spread in Ontario. This means that the study will be at least 4 months and may last until September 30, 2023

Will I be hurt if I am in the study?

The swabs and small pieces of paper that go in your nose might bother you but they will not hurt your nose. If you agree to collect blood samples, it can cause a small amount of pain or bruising where you prick your finger.

Will the study help me?

No, the study will not help you. It may help other people if we learn how to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Do I have to be in this study?

You do not have to join this study. It is up to you. You can say okay now and change your mind later. All you have to do is tell us or your parent that you want to stop. No one will be mad at you if you don't want to be in the study or if you join the study and change your mind later and stop. We are talking to your parents about the study and you should talk to them about it too.

What happens after the study?

If you provided blood samples, we will send your parent/guardian a summary of your study results. All of the data we collect will be destroyed after 10 years.

Assent

Please check each box that is true:

- I have read this information sheet
 - I understand what is being asked of me
 - I agree to be a part of the study
- OR I do not want to join this study

Programmer: if they agree to be part of the study:

- I agree to collect blood samples when I join and then every 6 months, 30 days if/after I test positive for COVID-19
- OR I do not want to collect blood samples

By typing my name, I agree to take part in this study: _____

[date/time captured in electronic database]

SUBMIT / DO NOT SUBMIT BUTTONS

This study has been reviewed by the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HIREB). The HIREB is responsible for ensuring that participants are informed of the risks associated with the research, and that participants are free to decide if participation is right for them. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please call the Office of the Chair, Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board at 905.521.2100 x 42013.