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

Information Sheet and Consent Form - Adults Living with a Healthcare Worker

What is the purpose of the study?

To better understand how many people develop COVID-19 infection, how often infection is spread in households, and whether there are microbes or early immune responses (in our nose) that protect or make people more susceptible to infection. We are also studying the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines and how antibody levels (in your blood) change over time.

Who is being asked to participate?

People living with someone in the study who works in an acute care, rehabilitation, or complex care hospital and who sleep in the same dwelling 3 nights per week or more often, on average

What do I need to do if I decide to participate?

1. An online survey at enrolment and every 12 months (~5-15 minutes)
2. Short online surveys every 2nd week (~2 minutes); 1 week in 10 will be a bit longer (~5-7 minutes)
3. Whenever you are tested for COVID-19 (even if you have no symptoms): complete an online illness/test report (~5 minutes);
4. When you have symptoms that might be COVID (even if you are not tested): complete an online illness/test report (~ 5 minutes);
5. When someone else in your home develops an acute respiratory illness: collect nasal swabs and pledgets (small absorbent papers you put in your nose) on Days 1, 3, 5, 7, & 10 to test for immune responses (what is different in the noses of people who get COVID-19 and those who do not). *This is asked of ALL households where a person has COVID-19 and about 1 in 3 households where a person submits a swab when they have symptoms but that tests negative for COVID-19*
6. An online survey about whether you intend to be vaccinated against COVID-19 (~3 minutes)
7. An online questionnaire when (if) you are vaccinated against COVID-19 (~1 minute each dose)
8. If you agree (optional), self-collect blood samples:
    a. when you join and again every 6 months, 30 days if/after you test positive for COVID-19, and if you are vaccinated against COVID-19, prior to receiving your first dose and again 30 days after the final dose.

Collection of the blood is similar to how people with diabetes check their blood sugar (with a finger pick and a card to put blood drops on). The results will be shared with you after they are tested.

How long will the study last?

The study will last until the end of this new virus spread in Ontario or the end of the study. This means that the study will be at least 4 months and may last until September 30, 2023. You may withdraw at any time by emailing covid.study@sinaihealth.ca or calling 416-294-6383.

Are there any benefits or risks to participating in the study?

- There are no physical risks to participating in the study.
- Collecting a nasal swab or pledget may be uncomfortable.
- If you choose to self-collect blood samples, you may have a small amount of pain or bruising at the prick site. It is occasionally necessary to prick a second finger.
- There is no cost to taking part in the study. All supplies are provided by the study. The study pays to have supplies shipped to your home and returned to the lab.
- There is no direct benefit to being in the study beyond having access to test results. However, information learned from this study may help us reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.

Expenses associated with participating in the study

- When you complete your baseline questionnaire and the first five bi-weekly reports, you will receive an email asking you to choose the retailer for your $20 electronic gift card
- A draw will be made every 10 weeks throughout the study for a $10 electronic gift card. All adult bi-weekly reports completed for each 10-week period will be eligible for the draw

Voluntary participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study, or to be in the study now and then change your mind later. You may leave the study at any time without affecting your care. You may refuse to answer any question you do not want to answer.

Study information

Study investigator: Dr. Kevin Katz, Infection Prevention & Control, (416) 756-6130
Funders: Weston Foundation, Physicians' Services Inc., & COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

Confidentiality

Your data will be kept confidential. You will not be named in any reports. Your name, address, and phone number can only be accessed by the study staff and are needed to ship supplies to you and call with test results. The information collected for the study will be kept on secure servers using encryption software for up to 120 days after the end of the study. It will then be transferred to the Mount Sinai Hospital server and kept there for 10 years before being destroyed. The following people may look at your personal health information to check that the information collected is correct: Representatives of the North York General Hospital Research Ethics Board or Health Canada. No personal information will be shared outside the study except as required by law.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to speak to the study team for any reason, please call Dr. Kevin Katz at 416-756-6130 or Dr. Coleman, PhD, at covid.study@sinaihealth.ca or call 647-267-2413.

The North York General Hospital Research Ethics Board has reviewed this study. If you have any concerns about your rights as a research participant or your experiences while taking part in this study, contact the Research Ethics Board at 416-756-6444 ext. 3485; email REB@nygh.on.ca

ELIGIBILITY

Before you continue, it is important that we make sure that you are eligible to participate. Please check the items that apply to you:

☐ I am 18 years of age or older

☐ I sleep in the same home (3+ nights per week, on average) as someone who works at North York General Hospital or an associated rehab/complex care hospital

☐ I do not meet one or more of these requirements (statements)

CONSENT

☐ I have read this information sheet and I understand the study procedures

☐ I agree to be a part of the study

OPTIONAL SECTION

☐ I agree to collect blood samples as described above