



## 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 blood antibody levels change over time. This study is for research purposes.

##### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/illness 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: when you join and again every 6 months, 30 days after/if 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 your 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 by email 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](mailto:COVID.study@sinaihealth.ca) or calling 416-294-6383.

## Are there any 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.
- 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.
- There is no other 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.
- Taking part in the study is voluntary. You can leave the study at any time by contacting the study coordinator. You can refuse to answer any question you do not want to answer.

## Study information

Study investigator: Dr. Jeff Powis, Infection Prevention & Control (416) 469-6252

Funder: Weston Foundation, Physicians' Services Inc., & COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

## Data Collection and Use

Although this research is being conducted by researchers from across Canada, all data you provide is being handled by research staff from Sinai Health. Examples of the types of data we collect includes your name, ethnic background, date of birth, health conditions, and results of tests that you may have had. We will only collect the information that we need do the research. We will get this information by asking you to complete online questionnaires. Your study data will be coded (with a number) so that it no longer contains your name, address or anything else that could identify you. Only the study staff will be able to link your coded study data to you.

## 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 7 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 Michael Garron Hospital Research Ethics Board. Please note that email is not considered a secure way to transmit confidential information.

No personal information will be shared outside the study except as required by law.

By agreeing to participate in this study, you do not give up any of your legal rights.

## 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. Powis at 416-469-6252 or Dr. Coleman, PhD, at [COVID.study@sinaihealth.ca](mailto:COVID.study@sinaihealth.ca) or call (416) 294-6383 (weekdays between 8am and 6pm).

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant or your experiences while taking part in this study, please contact Dr. Sherry Rezaie, Chair of the Michael Garron Hospital Research Ethics Board at 416-469-6580, ext. 3853.

### 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 or more per week, on average) as someone who works at Michael Garron 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 self-collect blood samples as described above

For Information Only