
Fenland COVID 19: Qualitative study of participant experience Participant information Sheet

MAIN STUDY GROUP

Summary

- We would like to interview a small sample of participants who previously consented to be part of the Fenland COVID 19 Study to learn from your experiences and inform future studies.
- We can only interview a small number of people, so places are limited.
- Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve.
- Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Discuss it with friends and relatives if you wish.
- You are free to decide whether or not to take part in this research. You can still be part of future studies even if you chose not to take part this time.
- Please do ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.
- All of the information collected will be used for research purposes only and will not be used for clinical purposes or shared with you.
- Thank you for considering to support our research in these uncertain times. Your time is greatly appreciated.

1. Why are we doing this study

Now the remote data and sample collection period for the Fenland COVID 19 Study has finished, we are conducting research into the experiences of those participants who took part in the study. We would like to conduct semi-structured interviews with participants of the study. Interviews will focus on what factors made participants decide whether to enrol in the study and decide whether to also take part in the app sub-study. We are hoping to learn from your experiences to inform future studies.

2. Why am I being asked to take part in this sub-study?

You have been invited as you participated in the Fenland COVID 19 Study.

3. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part in this research, we would conduct an interview with you. The interview will take place remotely over Zoom or telephone, depending on your preference, and will be organised at your convenience. The interview will last up to 1 hour, will be audio recorded and later transcribed. Additionally, the researcher present might also make further notes.

4. Possible benefits and disadvantage of taking part

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The information collected during this study will give us a better understanding of different ways of conducting research. The information you will provide will help to inform and improve the development of future studies. You will receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

The only foreseeable disadvantage of taking part is the time required to conduct the interview, but we will ensure that this is at a time convenient for you.

5. More information about taking part.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this additional study. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign an electronic consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and to continue in the main Fenland study. You can still be part of future studies even if you chose not to take part this time.

Will I receive any payment for taking party?

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to provide payment for taking part.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study you should ask to speak to the research team who will do their best to answer your questions on 0800 085 6183. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, the normal University of Cambridge complaints process is available to you through the University of Cambridge Clinical School Secretary: telephone: 01223 333543 or email: SchoolSec@medschl.cam.ac.uk

What will happen to the information about me collected during the study?

Information we collect during the course of the interview, including audio recordings, interview transcriptions and notes we collect during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Audio recordings will be destroyed at the end of the study, and we will anonymise the transcripts and notes for use in analysis. This means any information about you will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be recognised from it and it will not be used or made available for any purpose other than for research. Anonymised data may be shared with collaborators for suitable projects, and this may include non-academic and overseas collaborators.

With your permission, information will be stored at the MRC Epidemiology Unit in a secure database. Codes connecting your individual identity to the stored data records will be kept separately. The database containing personal information is on a secured network drive on computers in the MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge and access to this information is limited to authorized members of the team and Sponsor.

Cambridge University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this. Cambridge University will keep identifiable information about you for 20 years after the study has finished. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate.

If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible. You can find out more about how we use your information at <https://www.medschl.cam.ac.uk/research/privacy-notice-how-we-use-your-research-data/>

What will happen to the results of the study?

When the study is completed, the results will be published in scientific journals so that other researchers and practitioners can see the results. When published, your identity and personal details will be kept confidential. No information that could identify you, like your name, will be published in any report about this study. We will disseminate a summary of our findings from the study through our newsletters.

Unfortunately, you would not benefit financially from results from this or other future work.

Who is organising and funding the study?

This study is organised by the MRC Epidemiology Unit, part of the University of Cambridge. The funder is the Medical Research Council.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed by an independent group of people, the Research Ethics Committee, to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. The study has been given a favourable opinion by South West – Cornwall & Plymouth Research Ethics Committee.

6. Contact for further information

If you have any questions regarding the study or how you might be involved further contact information can be found below: The Fenland Study Team Tel/Freephone: 0800 085 6183 Email: fenlandstudy.covid19@mrcepid.cam.ac.uk

Principal Investigator Prof Nicholas Wareham Unit Director MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge

Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in this study.

