SARS-CoV-2 Acquisition in Frontline Health Care Workers – Evaluation to Inform Response - PLUS (**SAFER-PLUS**)

Behavioural Interview Study Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

WHY are we doing this?

- As part of the wider SAFER-PLUS study that you are currently participating in, we are conducting interviews to explore healthcare workers' experiences and challenges of working during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are particularly keen to hear about any measures and practices you may be using to reduce risk of COVID-19, such as use of PPE, physical distancing, hand washing etc.
- We are aware that working conditions can be challenging at the moment, and that it is not always possible to do these measures in practice. We want to understand why that is the case, and which situations make it easier or harder to do these measures.
- Your views on this are key to helping us identify ways to improve safety and working conditions for staff at this hospital, infection control practices and policies, pandemic response and preparedness.

WHO can get involved?

- Anyone who is currently taking part in the wider SAFER-PLUS study
- We are keen to hear the views and experiences of a wide range of healthcare worker roles.

WHAT do I need to do?

- ✓ If you are interested in taking part please contact the researcher on the email or telephone listed below to arrange a time and date that is convenient for you.
- ✓ Interviews will take place via telephone or video conference and last approximately 45 minutes.
- ✓ You will be asked a series of questions about your role, experience of working during the COVID-19 pandemic, use of PPE and other protective measures, and factors influencing this.
- ✓ This is an informal discussion and is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers.
- ✓ You are free to skip over any questions you do not wish to answer.
- ✓ Participation is strictly confidential and only anonymised data will be disseminated.

More detail about the study is available below:

If you would like to schedule an interview, have any questions or would like further information please contact: [researcher email address, telephone number]

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

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INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN A RESEARCH STUDY

We would like to invite you to take part in the above research study. Before you decide if you want to take part or not, we would like to tell you why this study is being done, and what you can expect if you do take part. Please read what we have to say carefully. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Working in the context of an outbreak of a novel pathogen will likely present risk and unique challenges to healthcare workers who continue to work in hospitals during a pandemic. This is a research study about healthcare workers' risk of catching the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, at work. Health care workers who work during a pandemic are at risk in two ways. They are at risk of catching the infection from their patients, many of whom may be infected but not suspected or isolated. They are also at risk of carrying the infection during work and passing it to their patients. It is not clear which staff are more at risk; those in A/E or those who work in cohort wards.

There are a number of behaviours and measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of acquiring and transmitting COVID-19. These include for instance, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), hand washing, disinfecting objects and surfaces, physical distancing, etc. There is a lack of evidence regarding the extent to which these measures are used over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what factors make it easier or more challenging to use these measures.

This study is an extension of our original research study called SAFER and will enable us to capture *changes* in perceptions of risk and use of protective behaviours over the course of the pandemic.

This part of the study aims to:

- Understand healthcare workers' experience of working during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Explore perceptions of risk and what measures and practices healthcare workers' have been taking to try and reduce risk of COVID-19 (e.g. hand washing, use of PPE, distancing, etc).
- We are particularly interested in understanding the factors that influence PPE use and physical distancing.

To achieve these aims, we are asking healthcare workers who are currently taking part in the SAFER-PLUS study to take part in an informal discussion (i.e. interview) with one of our researchers. This is an opportunity to share your views, experiences, and challenges of working during the pandemic. Your responses will help us improve infection prevention control, pandemic preparedness and response.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being asked to take part because you are currently taking part in the wider SAFER-PLUS study. We would like to hear the views of healthcare workers, like yourself, from a range of professional backgrounds.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY?

No. The decision on whether you take part in the study or not is entirely yours. You can still participate in the wider SAFER-PLUS study without taking part in this interview study. If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Your line managers and/or colleagues will not be notified of your decision of whether or not you take part.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO TAKE PART?

We would like to interview you to ask you a series of questions about your current role and working patterns, your experience of working during the COVID-19 pandemic, views around risk, any protective measures you are currently using to try and reduce risk, use of PPE and physical distancing, and factors influencing these.

There are no right or wrong answers and we are interested in hearing a range of perspectives.

One of our researchers will conduct the interview, which can last approximately 45 minutes, depending on how much you have to say.

We can arrange to talk to you at a date and time that is convenient to you. The researcher will ask you to give consent either, electronically or in writing before the interview to confirm your willingness to participate. With your permission, the interview will be recorded, and a transcript will be produced.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS OF TAKING PART?

We do not anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to skip over any questions you do not wish to answer, stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time. There may be some inconvenience in taking the time to participate in an interview and answering questions. We anticipate the interview will take approximately 45 minutes, but this will depend on how much you have to say. You can skip over any questions you do not wish to answer, and stop the interview at any time.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

Your views will help us to better understand staff's experiences of working in the context of a viral pandemic, and the challenges they face. We hope this information will help identify ways of reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus, strategies to help healthcare workers best to protect themselves, strengthen infection control practices, and future pandemic preparedness and responses.

WILL TAKING PART IN THE STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes, all the information that is collected about you during the study will be kept strictly confidential and secure in line with the law as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We will only use information that we need for the research study and will also follow all privacy rules, and we will make sure no-one can work out who you are from the reports we write.

You can find out more about how we use your information at www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/, by asking one of the research team (please see contact details below), and the UCLH Data Controller contact: UCLH.IGQueries@nhs.net

Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

For participants in health and care research studies, click here

HOW WILL WE USE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?

The recording of the interview and data collected from you will be held by the study researchers at UCL, stored on a secure, password protected computer. Interview recordings will be transcribed verbatim by 'K-International' and fully anonymised as needed so that no individual can be identified from the data. Once transcripts are checked for accuracy and anonymised, all audio recordings will be deleted. Transcripts about you will be kept in this secure location for a minimum of 20 years after concluding the study. After this time, it will be destroyed. Paper consent forms will be destroyed within 12 months of completing the study.

As part of the wider SAFER-PLUS study you will have been assigned a participant ID number so that you cannot be personally identified from the data during analysis and reporting of study findings. We will use this ID number to store your interview recording and transcript, rather than any personally identifiable information (i.e. names, email addresses). Anonymised data will be shared with the SAFER-PLUS research team to enable the analysis to be carried out.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES ABOUT HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED?

You can withdraw your involvement in this study at any time before, during or after the interview, without giving a reason. You are also free to skip over any questions you do not wish to answer.

WHAT IF THERE IS A PROBLEM?

If at any stage, you have concerns about the study or the way it has been carried out, you should contact the research team (see contact details below).

Taking part in the study does not alter your legal rights in any way if you have grounds for legal action.

Any complaints should be dealt with in the usual way through the NHS Complaints Procedure. If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions, contact details are at the end of the document. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this via the hospital's.

Site: University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Address: Ground Floor Atrium, University College Hospital, 235 Euston Road, London NW1 2BU

Tel: 020 3447 3042

Email:

When contacting them, please quote the UCLH study / Sponsor reference number: **136676**.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results and for future research. This data will be kept for 20 years (which is similar to other COVID 19 studies). At the end of the study, we will analyse results and publish in research journals and present in other reports and presentations. Any information that is used from interviews (for example in published articles), including direct quotes, will be fully anonymised by removing names of people, places and any other identifying information. Please let the researcher know at the end of the interview if you would like to be sent a copy of the results.

WHO IS ORGANISING THE RESEARCH?

The research is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC), MC_PC_19082, and UCLH Charity.It is Sponsored by University College London Hospitals (UCLH) Foundation Trust and carried out by a research team from the Department of Virology (UCLH), and the University College London Farr Institute, Centre for Behaviour Change and departments of Population, Policy and Practice, Infection and Population Health, Epidemiology and Public Health, Infection and Immunity and Science and Technology Studies , and the University of Leeds.

WHO HAS REVIEWED THE STUDY?

This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the Health Research Authority NHS Research Ethics committee (Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire; Approval ID number TBC).

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If, at any time during the study, you have questions or concerns regarding the study you can contact the Research Team:

- Dr Elise Crayton, e.crayton@ucl.ac.uk
- Dr Carly Meyer, carly.meyer@ucl.ac.uk

- Dr Fabiana Lorencatto, f.lorencatto@ucl.ac.uk
- Prof Susan Michie, s.michie@ucl.ac.uk

UCLH Telephone contact (between 0900 and 1700 Monday-Friday): 07790972176

Study contact email: uclh.saferstudy@nhs.net

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