

Virufy.org
Consent to Participate in Research

“Collection of Smartphone Data for Screening of COVID-19”

Introduction and Purpose

We are a student-run and faculty-mentored consortium of various universities, under the banner of Virufy, conducting a research survey to collect information related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We would like to invite you to take part in our research survey for the development of an app for COVID-19 screening.

By collecting data through our research survey, we hope to build an app with artificial intelligence (AI) technology that will use a smartphone as a COVID precheck tool.

As part of the study, you will be asked to provide a cough recording. This is important because your audio recordings will be used for training machine learning models (central to AI technology).

Procedures

If you agree to participate in our research, we will ask you to complete the attached online survey. The survey will involve questions about your medical history, symptoms, basic demographics, and COVID-19 testing results. Additionally, we will ask you to submit audio and/or video recordings.

The survey should take less than five minutes to complete.

We do not ask for any identifying information and therefore, it will not be stored, and will not be available to the research team, researchers, and/or the public at any point.

Risks/Discomforts

This study involves collecting a cough sample recording through your phone and therefore, has a risk of spreading COVID-19 and other germs.

- To reduce this risk we ask you to record the cough from at least 6 feet distance from other persons and after recording your cough, disinfect your smartphone and nearby surfaces.
- To reduce the risk of spread of germs we advise you to use your own phone to record the cough sample.

As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk.

Confidentiality

Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. The data collected includes the following:

- Calibration recording (e.g. speech)
- Cough sample recording

- Test result for COVID-19
- Timeframe of COVID-19 test
- Age group
- Biological sex
- Smoking history (past 10 years)
- COVID-19 Symptoms
- Certain medical history

Your anonymous data is kept using an encrypted database with restricted access. Your data is anonymous and will not be linked to your medical records.

Your anonymous data will not be linked or shared with any outside parties including your medical records, insurance companies, or employer. This consent form will be kept by the research team.

If results of this study are published or presented, we are not collecting identifiable data therefore your identity will remain anonymous throughout and after the completion of the survey. The study results will be kept in research records and be used by the research team indefinitely.

When the research is completed, we will save the data for possible use in future research done by us or others. We will retain these records indefinitely. The same measures described above will be taken to protect confidentiality of this study data.

Your personal information may be released if required by law. Authorized representatives from the following organizations may review your research data for purposes such as monitoring or managing the conduct of this study:

- Virufy, a project of the COVID Detection Foundation (California nonprofit organization)
- Universities (collaborators of Virufy)

The information you provide could be used for future research studies or distributed to other investigators for future research studies without additional informed consent from the participant.

Benefits

There is no direct benefit to you from taking part in this study today.

We will use the information collected from this study to benefit other individuals with COVID-19 risk in the future.

Cost

There is no cost to taking part in this survey.

Compensation

You will not be paid for taking part in this survey.

Rights

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to take part in the project. You can decline to answer any questions and are free to stop taking part in the project at any time. Whether or not you choose to participate, to answer any particular question, or continue participating in the project, there will be no penalty to you or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Study Withdrawal

Since your data will be anonymous, it is not subject to withdrawal from this study or future research studies.

Questions

If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact us. You can reach Virufy at info@virufy.org.

If you agree to take part in the research, please complete “Step 1 - Consent to the study” of the survey. You can print a copy of the consent form for your personal records.