



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET



**TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT:** *COVID-19 screening by cough sound analysis*

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### What is RESEARCH?

**Research is something we do to find new knowledge about the way things (and people) work. We use research projects or studies to help us find out more about disease or illness. Research also helps us to find better ways of helping, or treating children who are sick.**

### What is this research project all about?

As you may know, currently there is a virus, called coronavirus, spreading all around the world. It's causing people to get very sick, and has similar symptoms as a flu, such as coughing. This virus spreads much more quickly than flu and is very dangerous to people who have other illnesses or who are old. This is why schools are closed, and people have been asked to stay home. As this virus causes similar symptoms to flu, we want to try and find out if a cough caused by coronavirus is different to a cough caused by the flu, or any other sickness such as asthma or tuberculosis.

If our research is able to hear the difference between a cough caused by the coronavirus or other sicknesses, we will be able to design an app for a cellphone which people can use at home that will be able to tell them that they might have coronavirus. If someone knows whether or not they might have coronavirus infection they are better able to take care of themselves and those around them, helping stop the spread of coronavirus. It will also help us identify people who need to have coronavirus tests, because the tests are so uncomfortable and expensive. This way only people that really need to have the test done will have one done, saving our government money and helping doctors and nurses spend their time on people who really need it.

### Why have I been invited to take part in this research project?

You have been asked to take part in this study because you have had a coronavirus test. It does not matter if your test was positive or negative. But because you have a cough and know whether it is coronavirus or not, if you take part in this research it might help us be able to say whether a cough is from coronavirus or not. We are asking children to take part, because just like your voice sounds different to an old person, the way you cough also sounds different.

**Who is doing the research?**

We are a group of scientists and engineers from Stellenbosch University who are listening to the coughs and teaching a computer the difference between a coronavirus cough and other coughs.

**What will happen to me in this study?**

To take part in this research you only need to answer some questions about how you feel and to make a recording of your cough.

**Can anything bad happen to me?**

Nothing bad can happen to you.

**Can anything good happen to me?**

If we are able to teach a computer the difference between a coronavirus cough and other coughs, it may help you or someone you know in future.

**Will anyone know I am in the study?**

No one will know you have taken part in this research because we will not ask for your name. We also do not ask for your parent or guardian's name. When you record your cough, you will not speak, so we cannot identify your voice.



Who can I talk to about the study? If you have any questions or you want to talk about the study you can send us an email at [covidcoughglobal@gmail.com](mailto:covidcoughglobal@gmail.com)

**What if I do not want to do this?**

You do not have to take part in the research if you do not want to. If you think you want to and start answering the questions but decide you don't want to anymore, that's ok. Nothing will happen to you, and no one will know that you don't want to take part.