**Participant Information Sheet**

**Title of Project: Exploring the modelling of Test, Trace and Isolate processes in the UK**

**Introduction**

*We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. One of our team will go through this information sheet with you, and answer any questions you may have. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information. Please feel free to talk to others about the study if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not to take part*.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) are conducting research about the Test, Trace and Isolate (TTI) processes for the control of COVID-19. To help policy-makers decide which strategies might be most effective in control of COVID-19, modelling has been used to explore different options about how testing, tracing and isolation work, for instance the length of the isolation period, or different approaches to testing contacts of confirmed cases. The purpose of this interview study is to test how well the model reflects what really happens in daily life with testing, tracing and isolation.

**Why have I been asked to take part?**

You have been invited to take part because as a member of the public, you have been asked to engage with different aspects of the TTI system (eg taking a COVID-19 test if you have symptoms, isolating if a contact, regular testing for work or for a household member at school) over the last year. You can share with us your views about TTI and help us: (1) identify what needs to be considered for improving TTI and (2) improve how the model works.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide to take part or now. If you don’t want to take part, that’s ok.

We will discuss the study together and send you a copy of this information sheet via email, if you decide to take part in an interview. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you take part, you will be asked to participate in an online interview. The interview will last a maximum of 40 minutes. You can choose (1) the time/date of the interview that you prefer and (2) whether you want the interview to happen through a voice or video call.

Two members of the research team will call you at the time/date of the interview to go through the interview questions with you. You do not need to know or prepare anything before the interview. Interviews will **not** be audio/video recorded, but researchers will take notes instead. The data we will collect through the interviews will be **anonymised** – we will not be matching your name with the notes and we will ensure to hide details that might make other people identify you.

**What will I have to do?**

Prior to the interview, you will have to book through this website the time/date you prefer for the interview and give your email address. Please also specify if you prefer a voice or video call. A member of the research team will then send you an email to confirm your interview. They will also send you an invitation for a voice/video call on Zoom.

On the day of the interview, one of the researchers will ask you to sign a consent form that will be sent to you at the time of the call. If you are still happy to take part, the researcher will go on and ask you the questions about the TTI practices.

After the interview, you will be contacted by email with a summary of your interview. You will be asked to check this is a accurate reflection of your views.

**What are the possible risks and disadvantages?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard for people in different ways and while we aim not to ask deeply personal questions, it is possible that you might feel emotional and you can stop the interview at any time. LSHTM will make sure your data are kept safe, without the possibility of someone identifying you at any point.

**What are the possible benefits?**

We cannot promise the study will help you but the information we get from the study will help our knowledge and understanding of the TTI system and how to help controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Compensation of £50 will also be given for participating in the study for your time and any costs of participating (eg data usage). After the interview, the researchers will email you with a code to redeem a voucher.

**What if something goes wrong?**

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 (please see at the end of this page for contact details). If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting Patricia Henley at [rgio@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:rgio@lshtm.ac.uk) or +44 (0) 20 7927 2626.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If you experience harm or injury as a result of taking part in this study, you may be eligible to claim compensation.

**Can I change my mind about taking part?**

Yes. You can withdraw from the study at any time. After the interview, withdrawal will not be possible as your data will be anonymised and we could not know which one it is.

**What will happen to information collected about me?**

We will need to use notes taken during the interview for this research project. We will also collect anonymised, demographic data about you (gender, age, ethnicity). All information collected about you will be kept private. Only the study staff and authorities who check that the study is being carried out properly will be allowed to look at information about you. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

Notes summarising the comments from your interview and your non-identifiable demographic data may be shared with other members of the TTI research project.

At the end of the project, we will make the interview notes and your non-identifiable demographic information publicly available via an online data repository, but this will be anonymised. This means that you cannot be recognised and your data will have a code number instead. There will not be a way to link your interview notes to identifiable information about you.

Your personal details, meaning your signed, consent form will be kept in a different safe place to the other study information and will be kept for 20 years in line with the MRC’s requirements for population health research.

At the end of the project, the study data will also be archived at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for 20 years. Your personal information will not be included and there is no way that you can be identified.

**Where can you find out more about how your information is used?**

You can find out more about how we use your information

* At <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/files/research-participant-privacy-notice.pdf>
* by asking one of the research team listed below
* by sending an email to [DPO@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:DPO@lshtm.ac.uk)

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

Findings from this study may be shared with UK government scientific advisory channels including the UK government’s scientific advisory group for Emergencies (SAGE) and its sub-committee (SPI-M and SPI-B) and working groups, as well as other policy and public health bodies engaged in the pandemic response (Public Health England, Joint Biosecurity Centre). We will also share project findings publicly in social media, and with the wider research community through academic publications so that other researchers can learn from them. Your personal information will not be included in the study reports and there is no way that it will be possible to identify you personally.

**Who is organising and funding this study?**

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the sponsor for the research and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as the Data Controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Research Ethics Committee (ref: 26265).

**Further information and contact details**

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you think you will take part in the study please read and sign the consent form.

If you would like any further information, please contact a member of the research team below who can answer any questions you may have about the study.

Contact details of the research team:

Dr. Elizabeth Fearon

Email: [Elizabeth.fearon@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.fearon@lshtm.ac.uk)

Dr. Caroline Jay

Email: [Caroline.jay@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Caroline.jay@manchester.ac.uk)

Tel.: +44 (0) 161 275 0677

Rigina Skeva

Email: [Rigina.skeva@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Rigina.skeva@manchester.ac.uk)

Guy Marshall

Email: [Guy.marshall@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Guy.marshall@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)