

Participant Information Form

Project title: Coronavax: Preparing Community and Government (Community Interviews Study)

Ethics approval number: RGS0000004457

Project researchers: Dr Katie Attwell, Associate Professor Christopher Blyth, Dr Samantha Carlson, Dr Lara McKenzie, Dr Barbara Nattabi, Ms Leah Roberts, Ms Anne Harrison, Mr Sean McDonell, Ms Gracie Edwards

Location: Western Australia

You are invited to participate in a community interview study, as part of the research project 'Coronavax: Preparing Community and Government'. This research project investigates community information needs and attitudes regarding a coronavirus vaccine. You have been selected as a potential participant because you are aged 18 or over and living in Western Australia and because you fit one of the sub-groups we are studying. This project is a joint initiative of The University of Western Australia (UWA) and Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases (WCV)D, based at Telethon Kids Institute (TKI).

This project is being led by Dr Katie Attwell, a Senior Lecturer and social researcher specialising in vaccination policy in the School of Social Sciences, UWA, and Associate Professor Chris Blyth, an infectious diseases specialist and researcher at WCV)D, based at TKI.

Aim/purpose of the study

The project seeks to link the community voice with the ears of government, using interviews and dialogue to analyse how to best ensure uptake of the vaccine by specific sub-groups, including those at greatest risk of disease or transmission of COVID-19. The findings from our studies will inform specific communication and governance recommendations for sub-groups of Australians. We will ask how attitudes compare to other vaccines, if and why people are motivated to receive a vaccine, and uncover any community concerns or barriers to vaccination. We will also explore people's experiences during the pandemic and lockdown.

We will communicate broad and anonymised findings from this interview study to numerous stakeholders including WA and Federal Government employees, through a series of open dialogues and other knowledge translation activities. These discussions aim to shape COVID-19 vaccination roll out in Western Australia and beyond, ensuring that any community concerns and needs are taken into account.

What does participation involve?

With your consent, we wish to interview you for approximately one hour, and at a location and time of your choosing. In the event of extenuating circumstances or second or subsequent waves of infections in Western Australia, phone or online interviews may be undertaken.

With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded. Future conversations with the researchers to clarify any statements, positions, or suggestions will also be captured by the consent you provide. Project researchers may contact you to ask such questions, however, you are under no obligation to respond. Project researchers may also contact you in the future to request a follow-up interview for a later stage of the project. Your consent also covers the information you provided in your pre-screening survey.

Researchers Dr Lara McKenzie, Dr Samantha Carlson, Ms Leah Roberts, Mr McDonell and Ms Edwards will be carrying out interviews, potentially joined by other researchers. Dr Carlson is a Research Officer at the Wesfarmers Centre for Infectious Diseases, based at TKI. Dr McKenzie is a social/cultural anthropologist and Research Fellow at UWA. Ms Roberts, Mr McDonell and Ms Edwards are students at UWA, and will be supervised by the research team.

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Following your interview, you will be compensated with a \$20 gift card from Coles or Woolworths. This demonstrates researcher gratitude for time contributed.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal from the study

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the study without reason and without prejudice, including during the interview itself and up until your data has been included in the project's analysis. You need give no reason or justification for withdrawing, and there will be no consequences associated with your withdrawal. In such cases, records of you, the participant, will be destroyed unless you agree that the researcher may retain and use the information obtained prior to your withdrawal.

Your privacy

Your participation in this study and any information you provide will be treated in a confidential manner. Information gathered from this project will be published, but your name and identifying details will not be used in any publication arising out of the research.

The recording of your interview will be transcribed by an online transcription service; your interview will only be stored here temporarily, until the study investigators request for it to be deleted from the online service. The investigators will then go through the transcribed interview and remove any identifying details that you provide (such as your name or where you work) and give you a fake name. Then, we will send the transcribed interview to a (human) transcriber for completion.

After this, your data - which includes prescreening information, interview recordings, follow-up exchanges, and transcripts – will be kept in line with the WA University Sector Disposal Authority (WAUSDA). It will be stored on a password protected computer or a secure server only accessible to the study investigators. Data will be retained under your fake name on the University of Western Australia's (UWA) Institutional Research Data Store (IRDS) for a minimum of 7 years after date of publication, or 7 years after conclusion of the project, whichever is later. Following this, it will be securely destroyed. Your real name, contact details, and any other information you provide in the pre-screening survey, will be stored securely on UWA's Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) database for 7 years, which is also only accessible to the study investigators.

Possible benefits

Potential benefits of participating in the study include:

- The opportunity to raise important concerns and barriers to COVID-19 vaccine roll-out;
- The opportunity to reflect on and gain insight into your experiences during the pandemic;
- The ability to contribute to research, policy, and resources that improve vaccination roll-out in the State, country, and worldwide. This includes providing researchers with insights into the unique concerns and challenges faced by you and others; and
- The opportunity to be part of the global effort to end the pandemic.

Possible risks and disadvantages

We do not anticipate that interviews will be difficult for our participants. However, there is a small risk of discomfort as you discuss your experiences and challenges during the pandemic. You may stop or pause the interview at any point, and are free to skip questions that you do not wish to respond to. You are welcome to contact the research team after the interview if you have any concerns or questions.



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Please note the following resources, which interviewers will have on hand:

Lifeline

- 24/7 helpline: 13 11 14
- Crisis support chat: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/online-services/crisis-chat>
- Website: <https://www.lifeline.org.au>

Beyond Blue

- 24/7 helpline: 1800 512 348
- Online forum: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/online-forums/staying-well/coping-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- Website: <https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au>

Funding

Coronavax is funded by a Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Catalyst Research Grant, WA Department of Health COVID-19 Research Grant, and a Future Health Research & Innovation Fund Focus Grant: COVID-19. Further grants are in development.

Approvals

All research in Australia that involves humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the Child and Adolescent Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee. This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding this study, you can contact the Executive Director Medical Services at Perth Children's Hospital (08 6456 2222). Your concerns will be drawn to the attention of the Ethics Committee who is monitoring the study.

All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.

Contacts

If you would like to participate or discuss any aspect of this study, please feel free to contact the project team at coronavax@uwa.edu.au. Alternatively, you may wish to directly contact one of the project members:

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