



## Liverpool Household COVID-19 Cohort Study (COVID-LIV)

### COVID-LIV Information Leaflet

#### Why are we doing the COVID-LIV study?

COVID-19 (or COVID for short) is the name of the disease that is caused by the new coronavirus. This coronavirus was first found in China in January 2020. The new coronavirus has since spread all round the world. COVID-19 is caused by a virus strain called SARS-CoV-2. We want to understand what factors determine transmission of the virus and how our bodies respond and become resistant to it.

Most people who get COVID-19 will be fine as it is not a serious disease in most people. Some people might not even know that they had it, but in a few people, COVID-19 makes them very sick. They may need a ventilator to help them breathe, or may even die. In order to prevent this, the government has asked everyone except essential workers to stay at home whenever possible. Whilst this will work, it has other effects, for example preventing people from working, so there is a great cost to the country, and to our personal freedoms. We need to understand how COVID-19 spreads, so we can help tell the government when to stop advising people to stay home, and what might happen if they do tell us we can go out again.

The results from this study will be used to provide valuable information for the government and local public health to plan the next stage of the COVID-19 response – that is how we step down from the lock down that we are currently in.

#### Why have I been chosen?

You, and your household, have been selected because you were part of another study before, called CLAHRC NWC Household Health Survey. In this study, you gave permission to be re-contacted again about other studies. Therefore, we are contacting you to ask if you would like to take part in this study.

We are selecting different types of households (for example with different numbers of people, or those with and without children) to take part in COVID-LIV. We need all different kinds to take part so we have not approached you based on anything particular about you or your household, or family. We are looking for around 1000 people from 300 different households to take part, so that we can be sure the people in the study are just like those in the whole community.

## Do I have to take part?

No, taking part is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part. However, we will need to start the study quite soon – this is because we need to start before COVID-19 spreads through the whole community.

We also want all the members of the household to take part. If you want to but other members of the household do not want to participate we may not be able to include you.

You will have receive an initial telephone call to discuss the study and to confirm if you are eligible to take part. If you decide to take part, you can also choose to stop at any time without giving a reason.

The decision you make on whether to take part or not will not affect the care you receive for COVID-19 now, or in the future.

## What will I have to do if I take part?

If you agree to take part, we will arrange for a member of the research team to visit you at home. You will be asked to sign a consent form. Once you have signed the consent form, you will be asked to follow the study plan (see study timeline diagram on page 3).

You will have to:

- Provide nose and throat swabs at the beginning and a nose swab taken by yourself weekly thereafter
- Inform us when you have taken your swabs so we can send a courier to collect them (once a week)
- Provide blood samples
- Provide saliva swabs and stool samples (only if you test positive for COVID-19)
- Complete questionnaires (either by yourself or over the telephone)
- Provide information on your health and wellbeing

## Are there any benefits or risks to taking part?

The main benefit is that you will know if you have had COVID-19 or not. If you have symptoms, and the test is negative, we will tell you this. This means that, once you have self-isolated for 7 days (as per government advice), you could still go out to work or to the shops because we will know for sure that you have not got COVID-19. We will also be doing antibody tests on your blood, so you will be tested for immunity as well. However, at the moment we are not sure if these tests means that you will actually be immune to the virus forever. Studying that is one of the aims of the study.

The risks are minor bruising from the blood samples taken, and researchers entering your house. However, the researchers will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times, to prevent transfer of COVID-19.

