



Measuring the Impact of Physical Distancing Measures and Creating Paths for Monitoring during the Relaxation Phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic (BCMIX- COVID-19 Research)

Information and Consent Form

STUDY TEAM

Principal Investigator:

Naveed Z Janjua MBBS, DrPH
School of Population and Public Health,
University of British Columbia &
BC Centre for Disease Control
Tel: 604-707-2514

Co- Investigators

Michael Otterstatter PhD, BC Centre for Disease Control
David Roth PhD, BC Centre for Disease Control
Daniel Coombs PhD, University of British Columbia
Mike Irvine PhD, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Prince Adu PhD, University of British Columbia

SPONSOR/ FUNDING

The study is funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research with support from the BC Centre for Disease Control.

INVITATION AND STUDY PURPOSE

Introduction

The continuing global spread of COVID-19 requires ongoing tracking of infections and of measures aimed to reduce its spread. British Columbia (BC) put in place physical (also called social) distancing measures that minimize contact between infected and healthy individuals to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Since transmission has been reduced in BC, physical distancing measures are now being relaxed. However, as they are relaxed, we need to understand how changes in physical distancing behaviours affect COVID-19 transmission. This understanding will help guide how to continue to safely relax these measures without causing large increases in COVID-19 transmission. This BC COVID-19 Population Mixing Patterns Survey (the "Survey") will help develop this understanding.

Purpose of the Survey

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the University of British Columbia are developing early warning systems to warn when COVID-19 transmission might increase. To develop these systems, we will use surveys and mobility data to assess changes in physical distancing behaviours and the impact of those changes on COVID-19 transmission.

Responses from the Survey will be used to inform provincial COVID-19 response plans going forward. Survey participants will also have an opportunity to take part in future activities. If you are a resident of BC, you are invited to participate in the Survey.

STUDY PROCEDURES

The Survey is voluntary. If you decide to participate in the Survey, you may answer as many questions as you wish. The Survey will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. After the survey, we will ask if you



want to participate in an on-going survey (every two weeks) to further understand patterns of interaction in BC.

POTENTIAL RISKS OF THE STUDY

We do not anticipate any harm will be caused to you by completing the Survey. Some of the questions we ask may seem sensitive or personal, but you are free to not answer a question in the Survey if you do not want to.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

The Survey results will help us understand and improve our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may benefit from the Survey if there are improved prevention efforts and services put in place that reduce community transmission.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

You can participate in the Survey anonymously (you do not have to provide your name or contact information). You will also be given an option to be contacted again in few weeks to complete parts of same survey on illness and activities.

Also, you will be given an option to provide your Personal Health Number (“PHN”), which can be found on your BC Services Card, BC Driver’s license, or your CareCard. You can authorize us to use your PHN which will enable us to perform more meaningful population level analysis. If you authorize the use of your PHN for this purpose, BCCDC will securely and confidentially link your Survey responses to administrative health utilization databases which will allow BCCDC to better understand healthcare use and to inform health system planning during the pandemic.

Your privacy and confidentiality will always be respected. You will not be identified in any reports and information that discloses your identity will never be released.

We use a UBC survey tool to collect Survey and registration data. This tool is fully compliant with BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (“FIPPA”). The Survey data is kept secure and is stored and backed up in Canada. The Survey tool will collect latitude and longitude of the device being used for the survey. We may use this data to impute the health region of participants.

Data Access and Storage

The Survey data will be safely stored within the secure computer network of BCCDC. After Survey data is downloaded onto BCCDC’s secure network folders, it will be encrypted to protect the information. All personally identifiable information will be stored separately from the Survey responses and will also be encrypted. Access to Survey data will be strictly limited to the Survey project team. All analyses of Survey responses will be reported in aggregate (grouped data, not individual) to ensure participant confidentiality. Data will only be used for the purposes of the BC COVID-19 response as outlined in this Form.

STUDY RESULTS



The results from this Survey will be made publicly available in the form of reports and graphics on the BCCDC website and academic publications. Results will be shared with health professionals, community partners and agencies, and the academic community in order to better support the response activities to COVID-19. Any information released will be summarized and will not identify any participant.

PAYMENT

You will not be paid for taking part in this study. However, participants are invited to enter a draw to receive 1 of 200 gift cards worth \$25.

CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY

If you have any questions about the Survey or how your information is used to support our public health response, contact the Survey project team at: data_analytics@bccdc.ca

CONTACT FOR COMPLAINTS

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598. For long distance, e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

PARTICIPANT CONSENT

Your participation in this Survey is completely voluntary and will not affect any health care services or other government services you receive currently or in the future.

You are free to withdraw at any time. If you withdraw, you may request that your data be removed from the Survey database if you have provided us with your PHN and contact information as part of your response. At the end of the data collection and once the data have been analyzed and made publicly available at an aggregate (group) level, participants will be unable to withdraw their Survey data.

The survey can be done online on any tablet, computer or mobile device. Any BC resident age 18 and over can participate.