



BC COVID-19 Population Health Survey

Information and Consent Form

Introduction

The BC Population Health Survey (the “Survey”) has been developed as a result of the continuing global spread of COVID-19 which will require ongoing public health surveillance and response activities into the coming months of 2020. The unintended impacts on the social, economic, physical health, mental wellness and resiliency of communities are not well understood. The BC Centre for Disease Control (“BCCDC”), a part of the Provincial Health Services Authority, wants to understand the impacts of COVID-19 for all BC residents, and to plan the approach for future public health measures.

This Survey is being delivered using UBC’s secure survey tool.

Purpose of the Survey

We want to learn more about our communities’ general knowledge and perceptions of risk around COVID-19, and how the current environment around us may affect our health and wellness, and our lives in general. The responses from the Survey will be used to inform our plans going forward. Survey participants will have an opportunity to learn about future initiatives they can support. As a resident of BC, you are invited to participate in the Survey.

Procedures

The Survey is voluntary and available via the internet [here](#). If you decide to participate in the Survey, you may answer as many questions as you wish. The Survey includes questions to guide public health decision making with regard to testing strategies, management of cases and contacts, measures targeted at the individual and community level, broader policy considerations and equity. It is estimated that the Survey will take 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Risks and Benefits

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; you do not have to answer a question in the Survey if you do not want to.

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 (without providing any identifying information).

At the end of the Survey, you will be given an option to provide your contact information if you wish to

be contacted for future projects related to the BC COVID-19 response.

Also, at the end of the Survey, 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 for either or both of the following purposes:

- a) **To assess your suitability for enrolment in a community immunity assessment and early warning network.** If you authorize the use of your PHN for this purpose, BCCDC will assess your suitability for participation in the project and, if it selects you, it will contact you and will send you a separate consent form.
- b) **To facilitate 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.

If you identify yourself using your contact information or PHN as explained above, we are collecting your personal information under the authority of sections 26 (c) and (e) of the BC *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”). The information you provide to us will only be used for the purposes we have outlined in this Form. Questions regarding the collection of your personal information or requests for records may be directed to the Information Access Privacy office that supports BCCDC at privacyandfoi@phsa.ca or 604.707.5833.

Your privacy and confidentiality will be respected at all times. You will not be identified in any reports and information that discloses your identity will not be released.

The platforms used to collect Survey and registration data are fully compliant with FIPPA. The Survey data is kept secure, and is stored and backed up in Canada.

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. Any 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 analysis of Survey responses will be reported in aggregate to ensure participant confidentiality. Data will only be used for the purposes of the BC COVID-19 response as outlined in this Form.

Sharing the Results

The results from this Survey will be made publically available on the BCCDC website in the form of reports and graphics. Any information released will be summarized and will not identify any participant.

Population level findings from the Survey, which will be de-identified to protect your privacy, 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.

Questions or Concerns

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 covid19.speak@bccdc.ca.

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 level, participants will be unable to withdraw their Survey data.

By completing the Survey, **you agree that consent has been given.**