

**COPE- West Midlands: The contribution of occupational exposures to risk of COVID-19 and approaches to control among healthcare workers – a qualitative study of household members**

**Participant information leaflet**

You are being invited to take part in an interview study, as part of the COPE-West Midlands research study. Before you decide if you are willing to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take your time to read the following information, and ask us if anything is not clear or if you would like more information.

**What is the purpose of this interview study?** We would like to find out your views about your experience when your household member who works in a healthcare setting and is taking part in the COPE study tested positive for COVID-19. A better understanding of the impact this had on household members and their perceptions of risk and how risk can be controlled will help to inform how the risk of infection among household members is minimised and identify the support household members might need.

**Why have I been chosen?** We would like to interview up to 20 household members of participants who are in the COPE-West Midlands study. We have identified your details as you have given permission to be approached to be invited to this interview study. All household members of COPE-West Midlands participants who have completed a household member survey are eligible to take part in this interview study. We are keen to understand the impact on, and hear the views of, a **range** of household members, including those who have **and** have not had COVID-19.

**What do I have to do?** If you agree to take part, we would like to do an interview with you at a time and location convenient to you (e.g. face-to-face, over the telephone or Zoom). We expect each interview will last approximately 30 - 40 minutes. With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded.

**Do I have to take part?** No. Participation in this interview study is voluntary. If after reading this information sheet you decide to take part, you will be asked to complete an online consent form; you will need to complete this before taking part in the interview study.

**Can I change my mind about taking part?** You are welcome to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason, and we will not collect any further information from you. All your information will remain pseudo-anonymised, and you will not be identifiable. If you decide that you would like us to withdraw your interview data from the study, please let us know up to two weeks after the interview.

**Possible benefits of taking part** Your views and experiences will help us to provide recommendations to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the households of healthcare workers. This information will be particularly helpful if there were further peaks in the pandemic here or in other countries. It will also inform NHS decisions in future epidemic and pandemic situations. As a thank you for your time in taking part, you will receive a £20 high street voucher after completing the interview. The voucher details will be sent to you by email and, in case the interview raises any issues that you feel you would like to speak to someone about, we will attach a document containing information on organisations you could contact.

**Disadvantages of taking part** Interviews will be 30 – 40 minutes, but we will schedule this when it’s convenient for you.

**Will my information be kept confidential?** Yes. We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence. The information you provide in this study will be subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 for health and care research. Your name will be removed from the interview transcripts and you will be assigned a unique ID number to maintain confidentiality of your identity. Direct quotes may be used in publications, but these will be numbered and anything which could identify you will be removed.

Your audio recordings will be kept securely by The University of Birmingham. Once these have been transcribed the recordings will be deleted, and the transcriptions will be held on a password protected secured server at The University of Birmingham. The recordings will be transcribed by a transcription company with a confidentiality agreement in place.

**Who is running the study?** This study is sponsored by the University of Birmingham and is being carried out by a research team based at the Institute of Applied Health Research. It has been approved by an independent group of people: London – Hampstead research ethics committee.

The University has in force a Public Liability Policy and/or Clinical Trials policy which provides cover for claims for "negligent harm" and the activities here are included within that coverage.

**Further information or concerns?** If you have more questions, or if you have any concerns about the study or its conduct, please contact the COPE study research team at [cope-wm@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:cope-wm@contacts.bham.ac.uk), or the research co-ordinator Dr Emma Lancashire, email: [e.r.lancashire@bham.ac.uk](mailto:e.r.lancashire@bham.ac.uk); telephone: 0121 414 3151).