



Participant Information Sheet

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| Principal Researcher: | Prof Suzanne Robinson |
| Associate Researchers: | Prof Christopher Reid, Dr Jacquita Affandi |
| Project Title: | Comprehensive health implications of Coronavirus (COVID-19) exposure in the community (CIVIC) - Fly In Fly Out Screening Study (CIVIC-FIFO) |

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The confirmed COVID-19 cases in Western Australia are relatively low compared to other countries (USA and Europe), and this is largely due to measures around social distancing and isolation of positive cases. Whilst social isolation and working from home are possible for some sectors of the workforce, for others this is not an option. The mining industry is one such industry. The nature of rotation employment and the Fly in Fly Out (FIFO) workforce means that even with strict measures at the mine site, there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19 when workers are off site. In addition, mining sites are often located in remote regions of Australia, such localities are home to some of Australia's most vulnerable communities, making it imperative to undertake stringent measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to these areas.

Therefore, in order to continue with mining activity and reduce the occurrence and spread of COVID-19 within the workforce and rural and remote community, it is necessary to screen FIFO workers ahead of them returning to the mine site and only allowing those with a negative test to return to work. In addition, it is also important to support those with a positive test and make sure they seek adequate medical attention.

The CIVIC-FIFO study is designed to investigate the number of cases in the community and provide more information on those at risk of contracting and spreading the virus. This will allow us to better inform future health practices in times of outbreaks of severe acute respiratory infections (such as COVID-19).

We would like to invite you to participate in the CIVIC-FIFO study if you are 18 years or older and are being routinely tested for COVID-19 as part of the Mineral Resources Screening Program.

If you agree to participate you will be asked to sign the consent form, or if you are completing on-line consent by pressing the 'I agree' button.

We are asking you to:

- 1. Answer an online questionnaire** which includes questions about you, your lifestyle, exposure to COVID-19, medical history and current medications. This will take approximately 15-20 minutes.
- 2. Provide your name, date of birth, email address, suburb and country, and/or phone number** so that we may contact you to complete follow-up questionnaires.
- 3. Provide permission for us to access your screening test results and linking these with your survey data.** This will allow for a greater understanding of the COVID-19 virus

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4. Provide permission to access some specific health related information about yourself in government health datasets (using data linkage).

We need to find out if COVID-19 exposure is linked to future cardiopulmonary events such as heart attacks and heart failure, respiratory disorders and how this affects the Australian health system. Throughout our lives, information is collected about our health and healthcare. This information is already routinely collected by hospitals, health departments, and other groups or organisations that provide health services.

The collection of this information is usually required by law, and is securely stored by the service or agency that collects it. Health research is very important as it looks at how health care is managed and how services are delivered and used. Data linkage is a way of connecting information held by different groups or services in a way that protects a person's privacy. Being able to link data can be very useful in health research. It can provide a more accurate picture of the overall health and well-being of groups of people.

Data linkage is usually performed by a trusted third party – a Data Linkage Unit – who are specialists in this task but perform no other role in the research. They typically use personal information to perform the linkage between different types of data related to your health, called datasets.

We would like your permission to let us link your data to information in other health databases so that we can collect selected, additional information this will help us to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on an individual's health. We are looking to compare data from those individuals who test positive for COVID and those that don't. This allows us to compare health related information for both groups (i.e positive and negative) and help us to better understand the disease and its transmission through the community. With your permission we will be able to collect relevant from state and national datasets

This questionnaire is designed to help medical professionals and researchers understand COVID-19. It does not give health advice. Health advice can be found at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF BEING INVOLVED IN THIS RESEARCH

- We will ask questions about your feelings regarding Covid-19. If answering these questions is upsetting, we have provided links to organisations which may be of help to you.
 - Your GP
 - [Mindspot.org.au](https://www.mindspot.org.au)
 - [Lifeline](https://www.lifeline.org.au) on 13 11 14
 - [beyondblue.org.au](https://www.beyondblue.org.au)
 - [Centre for Clinical Interventions](https://www.cci.edu.au)

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There will be no direct benefits for you taking part in this study. Your participation will contribute to the advancement of research into the COVID-19 virus and support us in gathering information that could help inform future planning and delivery of health services for local communities in WA and beyond.

Taking part in a research project is voluntary. It is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project.

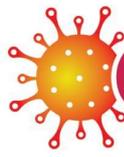
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR INFORMATION

By signing the consent form, you give permission for the study's research staff to collect and use your health information for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. The information you contribute for this study will be identified by a unique code, although as we conduct the study, we will use your name, for example, when we contact you (at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 weeks, then every 3rd month until 12th and 24th month with an option to extend to 5 years in total). Only authorised persons, who understand that this information must be kept confidential, will have access to individual contributions, participant names, or email addresses

All electronic study data will be stored on a secure server at Curtin University. In accordance with Western Australian University Sector Disposal Authority (s14.9.5) all data will be retained for at least 7 years following publication of the results. Data will be archived and finally destroyed according to the archiving rules of the University and Health Department Guidelines, Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

Information about you may be obtained from your health records held at this and other health services for the purpose of this research. By signing the consent form you agree to the study team accessing health records if they are relevant to your participation in this research project. Your health records and any information obtained during the research project may be checked (to verify the procedures and the data) by the relevant authorities and authorised representatives. Authorised authorities include the Human Research Ethics Committees of the Western Australian Department of Health and Curtin University. If this should occur, these personnel are required to comply with the privacy laws that protect you when dealing with your information. By signing the Consent Form, you authorise release of, or access to, this confidential information to the relevant study personnel and regulatory authorities as noted above.

Results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified. All health results will be presented as group data, meaning individuals cannot be identified. Information about your participation in this research project may be recorded in your health records.



CIVIC-FIFO STUDY

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In accordance with relevant Australian, Western Australian, and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to your information collected and stored by the research team.

Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored. It will be disclosed only with your permission, or as required by law. We will inform you of the project findings when results are published.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO STOP TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

You may withdraw your consent at any time by emailing civic@curtin.edu.au or phone 1800 971 022 (and choose Option 1).

WHO IS FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

The main funding body for the CIVIC-FIFO study is the XXXXXX.

The CIVIC-FIFO study is run by Curtin Health Research and Data Analytics Hub. Centre of Clinical Research and Education (CCRE), School of Public Health, Curtin University. If you require further information or if you have any concerns about this project, you can contact **Dr Jacquita Affandi** on **1800 971 022** (and choose Option 1) or email at civic@curtin.edu.au.

WHO HAS REVIEWED THE RESEARCH PROJECT?

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (CIVIC study - HREC number HRE2020-0153; CIVIC-FIFO study number HRE2020-0180). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or if you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Chief investigator Professor Suzanne Robinson on (08) 9266 4921 or email Suzanne.robinson@curtin.edu.au or the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email hrec@curtin.edu.au.