

COVID-OUT

**Take part in vital research
to help stop COVID-19**

By volunteering, you can:

**Help us learn
how to more effectively
stop the virus spreading
and get working life back
closer to normal.**

**Find out if
you have protective
antibodies against COVID-19
due to your vaccination or a
past infection.**

**Play your
part in some of the
most important science
happening in the
world today.**

**Enable your
business to receive
tailored advice to make
your workplace
safer.**



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What is this research?

We're asking you to take part in a study called COVID-OUT, which is conducting rapid on-the-ground research in workplaces such as yours that have had a COVID-19 outbreak.

This will improve our understanding of how these outbreaks start and spread, which will in turn help us advise government and businesses on how to prevent them as the UK unlocks.

COVID-OUT is part of a larger research programme called the PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study on transmission and environment. Funded by the UK Government, PROTECT is improving our understanding of how the COVID-19 virus is transmitted in different places and how to stop it, helping save lives and get society back towards normal.

COVID-OUT is a collaboration between the University of Manchester, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Health and Safety Executive, and Public Health England. It's strictly research – not a regulatory investigation.

What does it involve?

If your workplace takes part, our scientists will visit the site one to four times over a period of six weeks.

They will conduct a site environmental investigation, which means they will take samples from the air and surfaces, observe work and cleaning practices, and examine and photograph various aspects of the building and any COVID-19 control measures in place.

Afterwards, participating organisations will be provided with a write up of their results, including practical, tailored advice for improving virus control.

Employees will be asked to volunteer to do a number of COVID-19 tests, and complete questionnaires about their work and commute, COVID-19 symptoms and general health. Only those who give their informed consent will be included.

How do I take part?

If you are an employee:

Read the participant information sheet and sign the consent form to be part of the study. ✓

Complete four short questionnaires over six weeks. The first should take about 30 minutes, the others 3 minutes each. ✓

Do three COVID-19 PCR tests over the same time period, using the self-swab kits provided to you. ✓

Give two blood samples for antibody tests, collected by our scientists within the six-week period. ✓

That's it! Once your employer has agreed to take part in the study, they should allow you to complete the steps above in work time.

If it still sounds like a lot to commit to, don't worry – you can participate in as many or as few of the steps as you like, and drop out at any time.

The information we collect will still be useful, and it will be de-identified, meaning that it won't be possible to trace it back to you as an individual. We won't share your questionnaire answers or test results with your employer.

WEEK 1

Environmental sampling
COVID-19 PCR Test
COVID-19 antibody test
Questionnaire #1



WEEK 2

COVID-19 PCR Test
Questionnaire #2



WEEK 3

COVID-19 PCR Test
Questionnaire #3



WEEK 6

COVID-19 antibody test
Questionnaire #4



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If you are an employer:

Liaise with the study team, read the information sheet and sign the consent form. ✓

Nominate a contact to provide information on your workforce and shift patterns, and receive your environmental assessment and tailored advice. ✓

Allow our scientists access to your site on one to four separate days. ✓

Work with the study team to sign up employees as voluntary participants - we will provide promotional materials. ✓

Allow the participants to complete the study activities during work time. ✓



Employees can sign up now using the link or QR code on your site-specific COVID-OUT flyer.

For the COVID-OUT participant information sheet, visit bit.ly/COVID-OUT1

For the employer information sheet, visit bit.ly/COVID-OUT2

For more information on PROTECT, visit bit.ly/PROTECT_NCS

Our researchers will be happy to answer any questions about the study when they are on site.

You can also contact the COVID-OUT team at: COVID-OUT@HSE.gov.uk