

# 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.**



**Receive up to £50 in vouchers**

We are inviting everyone in your workplace to take part in this study, regardless of whether you have been infected with COVID-19.

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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 an increased number of COVID-19 cases over a time period that could be a COVID-19 cluster or an outbreak.

This will improve our understanding of how infections 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 UK Health Security Agency. 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 two rounds of COVID-19 antibody test, 4-6 weeks apart, and complete questionnaires about their work and commute, COVID-19 symptoms and general health. Only those who give their informed consent will be included.

### WEEK 1

Environmental sampling  
COVID-19 antibody test  
Baseline questionnaire



### WEEK 6

COVID-19 antibody test  
Follow-up questionnaire



## 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 two questionnaires over six weeks. The baseline questionnaire should take about 30 minutes, and the follow-up questionnaire 3 minutes. ✓

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

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.

To thank you for your participation, you will be able to claim a £20 "one4all" voucher once you complete the consent form and the baseline questionnaire. You will be able to claim two further £15 vouchers for completing the two blood tests and a follow-up questionnaire, for a total of £50 if you complete all parts of the study. The vouchers are redeemable at [www.one4alldigital.com](http://www.one4alldigital.com)

These are electronic vouchers that can be used on line or converted into cards so they can be used on the high street. The electronic or card vouchers are redeemable at most high street retailers ie: Boots, B&Q, Argos, H&M, John Lewis, M&S, ODEON cinema, TK max and many more.



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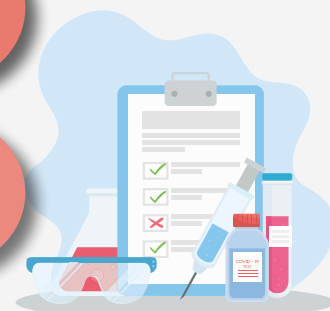
## If you are an employer:

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. ✓



**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 (with antibody tests), visit <https://bit.ly/3Fow3Sb>

For the employer information sheet, visit [bit.ly/COVID-OUT2](https://bit.ly/COVID-OUT2)

For more information on PROTECT, visit [bit.ly/PROTECT\\_NCS](https://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](mailto:COVID-OUT@HSE.gov.uk)