PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study on transmission and environment:

Publication policy

Policy first published January 2021; last reviewed September 2021.

Scope

This policy applies to all journal publication submissions, including publicly viewable pre-prints, containing results that were generated using data generated by the PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study on transmission and environment. This is supplementary to the National Core Studies (NCS) principles of participation which were agreed by all members of the NCS and are listed in the appendix. This policy sets out consistent practices required to achieve the firth principle: "*make research outputs, observations, code and tools generated from the studies open access, rapidly and freely accessible as a public good."*

Open access definition: *anyone with an internet connection can access the output of research – be it a journal article, algorithm or methodology, as well as reports, case studies and blog posts – without the need to pay for access via a subscription or other mechanism.*

Policy

The PROTECT study:

- Expects authors to maximise the opportunities to make their results available for free.

- Expects authors publishing the outputs of work to select publishing routes that ensure the work is available immediately on publication in its final published form, without a paywall or embargo period.

- Encourages – and where an open access fee is paid, requires – authors and publishers to licence research papers using the Creative Commons Attribution licence (Type CC-BY) so they may be freely copied and re-used (for example, for text and data-mining purposes or creating a translation), provided that such uses are fully attributed.

- Encourages authors to make findings available through pre-print services, such as medRxiv, so that insights are shared within the timeframes of the pandemic.

- Encourages authors to ensure that outputs published in a peer-reviewed journal are made available through PubMed Central (PMC) and Europe PMC as soon as possible and in any event no later than six months after the journal publisher's official date of final publication.

- Expects datasets to be discoverable on the Health Data Research Innovation Gateway, linked to the PROTECT study collection, and other relevant outputs, such

as algorithms/software, to be uploaded to the [Health Data Research UK GitHub repository](#) and made available via an open permissive licence (such as Apache Licence 2.0, MIT, MPL or BSD).

- Requires a copy of any paper within the scope of this policy to be submitted to the Government Office of Science and the PROTECT Portfolio Office at the Health and Safety Executive after publication, to allow monitoring and wider dissemination of research conducted by PROTECT and the National Core Studies programme.

Authorship of publications

We encourage authors to reflect and acknowledge the various contributions of each person involved in the work using CASRAI's [Contributor Roles Taxonomy (CRediT)](#) system.

Acknowledgements and attribution

Any publications falling within this policy must also acknowledge the National Core Studies funding as follows:

"This work was supported by funding from the PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study on transmission and environment, managed by the Health and Safety Executive on behalf of HM Government."

This policy is based on:
- https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/about-us/our-strategy/policies/
- https://kiglobalhealth.org/publication-policy/

Appendix: NCS Principles of Participation

The National Core Studies have committed to a set of principles to enable delivery and share data in a way which builds public trust:

1. Work collaboratively to actively share data to allow the scientific community to pool expertise, draw fresh insights, and increase our collective understanding.

2. Ensure unconsented data is accessed through secure platforms accredited or working towards accreditation by the UK Statistics Authority to comply standards established according to Digital Economy Act requirements, or working towards this status, which allows insights to be generated whilst maintaining privacy and data security.

3. Demonstrate active and ongoing engagement with patients and the public in the design, development and governance of their activities, to provide assurance that these activities are in the public interest.

4. Be transparent in the use of personal data and respect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals, complying with legal requirements and ethical expectations at all times.

5. Make research outputs, observations, code and tools generated from the studies open-source, rapidly and freely accessible as a public good.

6. Ensure all data and associated code and tools generated through the studies are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR).

7. Demonstrate value for money by using existing UK infrastructure and research investments as far as possible and using open competitions where necessary to develop new infrastructure capability.