

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: HR-19/20-18211

Pregnancy and birth during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (version 2)

The purpose of the project is to examine the what it is like being pregnant and giving birth (or your partner being pregnant and giving birth) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What will happen if I take part?

If you choose to take part in the project you will be asked to fill in a short survey to ask about your experiences. The survey should take around 20 minutes to complete, and asks questions such as *'Before the pandemic, what were your plans for birth?'* and *'How have these plans changed?'*

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to fill in a consent form before beginning the survey.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

Reflecting upon what happened or is still happening may be upsetting for you. You can change your mind about being involved at any time, and you don't have to give a reason. You can also choose not to answer any individual question. If you would like further support regarding your maternity care or becoming a parent, we can put you in touch with either AIMS or Birthrights, who can offer telephone or email support to you.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no intended benefits to you personally. People sometimes find it helpful to write down their experiences. You may feel it is beneficial to be part of a project that is looking at how the UK's maternity services' response to COVID-19 has affected expectant parents.

Data handling and confidentiality

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR).

- All participants will be given an identification number. Any quotes taken from your response to the survey will use a false name.
- Your actual name will only appear on your contact information sheet, which will be kept in within the secure files on the online survey database.
- Any other names or places you mention (partner, child, midwife, hospital, town) will be made anonymous, for example saying [partner] instead of their name.

- Once this research is finished, the anonymised answers will be stored by the UK Data Service, and shared with the ESRC, who are funding this research. The anonymised data will be available to other researchers.

Data Protection Statement

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). If you would like more information about how your data will be processed in accordance with GDPR please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

What if I change my mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw at any point whilst completing the survey, without having to give a reason, and you can do so by not submitting your answers. Once you have submitted the survey, it is not possible for you to withdraw your data as your responses will have been anonymised, so we can't tell which answers were yours.

How is the project being funded?

This project is being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) through grant number ES/T006099/1. You can find out more about the work of the ESRC here <https://esrc.ukri.org/>

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the project will be published in academic and medical journals. You can be emailed a copy of all publications that come from this research.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me using the following contact details:

Dr Mari Greenfield

mari.greenfield@kcl.ac.uk

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact the chair of the Research Ethics Committee at King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

The Chair, BDM Research Ethics Subcommittee, rec@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.