**The Oxford Psychological Investigation of Coronavirus (TOPIC)**

This study is being carried out by clinical psychologists in the Department of Psychiatry and Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford and in Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. The research is funded by the NIHR Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre. This study has been approved by the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee (R69638/RE001).

The study is open to any adult (18 years or older) who is resident in the UK.

**Study purpose**

We are in a stressful period of time with the coronavirus epidemic. There are likely to be consequences for mental health. The situation may well lead, for example, to panic attacks or post-traumatic stress reactions or depression. Post-lockdown it may feel very anxiety-provoking to leave the home (agoraphobia). There may also be greater mistrust of other people.

We are conducting TOPIC in order to identify the psychological factors that cause such mental health difficulties. This information will be used to guide future psychological treatment. If we understand the psychological causes then therapy can be better targeted - and therefore more successful.

The survey is not designed to capture everyone’s experiences during the epidemic. We focus on stressful aspects, particularly with regard to mental health, since the aim is to help guide future psychological treatment. We know that not everyone will have had a stressful response. Regardless of whether a person has found the epidemic stressful, we would like as many people as possible to complete the survey. Approximately 20,000 people are likely to complete the survey.

**What will taking part involve?**

Participants complete an online survey lasting about 30 minutes. There are questionnaires about a number of mental health conditions and questionnaires about psychological factors that may cause such difficulties. We will ask for your email address. The reason is that we would like to contact you again in the future to repeat the questionnaires. We anticipate emailing again in three and six months’ time. This will depend on how the epidemic unfolds. There is no obligation to complete the survey again when we re-contact you. We will retain your email for one year after you start the survey and would not contact you after this period of time. There is a prize draw at the close of each time point of the survey (when sufficient numbers of people have finished). There are five prizes of £100, five prizes of £50, and five prizes of £20.

**Do I have to take part?**

Participation is entirely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point during the questionnaire for any reason before submitting your answers by closing the browser. If, after completing the survey, you would like to withdraw your data then please contact the study team. We will be able to withdraw your data, unless the data from everyone has already been analysed. Typically, this is likely to be a fortnight after you have completed the survey.

**Aftercare**

Unfortunately we are unable to discuss individually a participant’s mental health with him or her. If you find that having completed the survey you would like help for your mental health then we recommend speaking to your GP or contacting your local NHS Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Service ([www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Psychological-therapies-(IAPT)/LocationSearch/10008](http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Psychological-therapies-%28IAPT%29/LocationSearch/10008)). There is also the Samaritans on 116 123 (UK or ROI) ([www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)) and Mind Infoline on 0300 123 3393 ([www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)). In the case of an emergency please call 999 or your local emergency number. These details will be shown again at the end of the survey.

**How will my data be used?**

Your data will be stored in a password-protected file on an encrypted computer at the University of Oxford. Your IP address will not be stored. Email addresses will be downloaded from Qualtrics and stored separately from the survey responses in a password-protected file. Your email address will never be passed on to third parties. While they are stored separately, it may be possible to re-link your email address with your responses, but this will be only be possible by members of the study team. The research will be written up for publication in a clinical journal. No personally identifiable information will be included in any publication.

Your email address will only be stored until the end of the final data collection time point, and for a maximum of one year. Your survey responses will be stored for a minimum of three years.

**Who will have access to my data?**

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/>. For the duration of the study, Qualtrics will also be a data processor with respect to your personal data. Qualtrics is an online survey platform and its servers are based in the EU. Please see their privacy notice here [<https://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>]. It encrypts data as it is transferred into storage, and does not continue to store data on its servers after it is deleted at the end of the project.

The University of Oxford servers are based in the UK, and your information will not be shared outside of the University of Oxford. The researchers will have access to the data. Responsible members of the University of Oxford and funders may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure we are complying with guidelines, or as otherwise required by law.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please contact the study team at TOPIC@psych.ox.ac.uk. We will do our best to answer your query. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the chair of the Medical Sciences Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee; Email: ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD).

**The study team**

Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust: Professor Daniel Freeman, Dr Laina Rosebrock, Dr Sinéad Lambe, Dr Felicity Waite, Dr Emma Černis, Ariane Petit, Stephanie Rek (now at Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich).

Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust: Professor Anke Ehlers, Professor David Clark.