

Information for COVID-19 Home Antibody Testing Study

TwinsUK BioBank – Substudy I

Thank you for your interest in our new project investigating COVID-19. You are eligible because you are a member of TwinsUK. You are eligible for this study whether or not you have received a COVID-19 vaccine or booster jab.

What is the purpose of this study?

- COVID-19 is a condition that primarily affects the lungs, caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- We want to understand how many of our twins currently have antibodies against COVID-19, in the months following infection and/or vaccination.
- This work is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, so that we can understand how antibody status changes in people, across the UK.



What will happen if I decide to take part?

- We will ask you to sign up to the study online and confirm your current postal address.
- We will share your address details with Thriva, a blood testing company, so they can send you a finger-prick blood collection kit in the post for this study.
- Thriva are certified to handle data securely and will only use your address details for this study. Thriva will erase your data shortly after sending out your postal pack.
- You will need to prick your finger and collect a small amount of blood (about 10 drops) into a little tube. All the materials needed and full instructions will be provided in your postal pack. **You must not take part if you have haemophilia or a blood clotting disorder.**
- We will send you an online questionnaire to complete as close as possible to your blood collection.
- You will need to return your blood sample using the prepaid packaging provided. Your sample will be tested by one of Thriva's partner labs: Pura Diagnostics, Eurofins County Pathology or MD Catapult.
- The lab will test your blood for antibodies, and TwinsUK will be informed of the result.
- Public Health England (PHE) requires us to share antibody test results from this study with them as COVID-19 is a notifiable disease. The lab will share antibody results directly with PHE and TwinsUK will share participants' age band, gender, ethnicity and first half of postcode with PHE, in an anonymous way that does not identify individual participants. PHE may then share this information with the health authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

What are the advantages of taking part?

- Antibody tests are not widely available – by taking part in this study, you will have access to one.
- Your involvement will contribute towards the fight against COVID-19.

What are the disadvantages of taking part?

- Your finger may be a bit sore from the finger-prick needed to produce blood drops.

Will I receive test results?

- Your blood sample will be tested for antibodies and TwinsUK will be informed of the result. We will email you your results within 8 weeks of you returning your blood sample. **It is important for the antibody testing and analysis that you fill the tube up to the 600 line, otherwise it may not be possible to give you a result.**
- You will be kept informed on the outcome of the study overall through email and our newsletter, website and social media channels.