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**Participant Information Sheet - Interviews**

Title of study: Covid 19 – Impact and Burden in Care Homes

Name & Contact Details of the Principal Researcher: Prof Laura Shallcross (l.shallcross@ucl.ac.uk)

Ethics Approval Number: 13355/002

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| **Invitation to take part in a research study** |

A team of researchers at University College London are conducting a research study to understand how Covid19 has impacted care home staff, residents and ways of working.

We would like to invite you to take part in this study. Before you decide if you want to take part or not, we would like to tell you why this study is being done, and what you can expect if you do take part. Please read what we have to say carefully. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

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| **What is the purpose of the study?**  |

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a substantial risk to elderly and vulnerable care home residents and COVID-19 can spread rapidly in care homes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also posed new and significant challenges to care home staff. Usual ways of working and practices are likely disrupted during the pandemic. Care home staff may have had to adopt different ways of providing care to residents, and take on new roles and responsibilities. It is important that we listen to and understand these challenges and changes, so we can identify how to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on residents, relatives and staff. This information can also help us identify ways to improve working conditions, safety, infection prevention and control, and inform future preparedness and response strategies.

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| **Why have I been invited to take part?**  |

You are being asked to take part in a telephone interview because you are currently working in a care home and are part of a network. We would like to hear about the experiences and views from a range of people including but not limited to care assistants, nurses, care and nurse bank staff, managers and others who have contributed to delivering care in care homes during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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| **Will taking part in the study be kept confidential?**  |

Yes. No one else will be made aware of your decision of whether or not to take part, including your colleagues and managers in the care home where you work. All information that is collected about you during the study will be kept strictly confidential.

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| **What will happen if I do take part?** |

The decision of whether to take part in the study is entirely yours. If you do decide to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

If you are interested in taking part, please reply to the invitation email or contact [study email address here]. A researcher in our team will then arrange a date and time for the interview that best suits you. We will then arrange to contact you for a telephone interview. These are informal discussions and not a test or assessment in anyway. During the interview you will be asked a series of questions about your current role, the overall impact of COVID-19 on your care home, residents and staff and ways of working. We want to understand how things have been for you and your colleagues, and the challenges you have faced. We will also ask about some specific challenges we know some care homes have been facing, such as interactions with other healthcare professionals, access to medicines etc. We are keen to discuss the main lessons learnt so that we can help prepare for future outbreaks should they occur.

There are no right or wrong answers and we are interested in hearing your honest views.

The interview telephone will be audio recorded and transcribed. Any identifiable information will be removed when we transcribe the interview. The transcribing of the audio file will be completed by a third party, GDPR compliment, UCL authorised company. The audio recordings will be destroyed after transcription.

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| **What are the possible risks of taking part?** |

We do not anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation. You have the right to skip over any questions you do not wish to answer, to answer in as much or as little detail as you’d like, stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

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| **What are the possible benefits of taking part?** |

Your views will help us to better understand care home staff’s experiences of working in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenges they face. We hope this information will help identify ways of better supporting care home during outbreaks, for developing a platform for sharing lessons learnt across care homes and being better prepared for future pandemics.

You will be financially reimbursed after taking part in the telephone interview by £50.

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| **How will we use information about you?** |

Anonymised interview data will be shared with CATCH19 research team to enable the analysis identified from the data during analysis and reporting of study findings. All data handling will be General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant.

You can withdraw your involvement in this study at any time before, during or after the survey, without giving a reason.

Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our ‘general’ privacy notice available here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-privacy-notice-participants-and-researchers-health-and-care-research-studies>.

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| **What if there is a problem?** |

If at any stage, you have concerns about the study or the way it has been carried out, you should contact the research team (see contact details below) or contact UCL REC ethics@ucl.ac.uk.

Taking part in the study does not alter your legal rights in any way if you have grounds for legal action.

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| **Who is organising the research?** |

The research is funded by the UKRI UK Research and Innovation, sponsored by University College London (UCL) and carried out by a research team from the UCL Institute of Health Informatics and the UCL Centre for Behaviour Change.

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| **Who has reviewed the study?** |

This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the UCL Research Ethics Committee (Approval ID: 13355/002)

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| **Who should I contact for further information?** |

If, at any time during the study, you have questions or concerns regarding the study you can contact the Research Team:

* Dr Gillian Forbes (g.forbes@ucl.ac.uk)
* Dr Fabiana Lorencatto, f.lorencatto@ucl.ac.uk
* Dr Laura Shallcross, l.shallcross@ucl.ac.uk

**Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in this study.**