

## **SURVEY OF SUSPECTED INFECTION LOCATIONS FOR COVID-19 IN OSLO (cases)**

### **TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SITUATIONS THAT RESULT IN THE GREATEST RISK OF BECOMING INFECTED WITH COVID-19**

Have you received an invitation from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) by text message to participate in the study aimed at determining the situations that increase the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19? In March, some of those who become infected in Oslo will be invited to join the study. The information below provides more details about the study and what participating will entail.

#### **About the study**

- You are being invited to participate in a survey because you have recently tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- The aim of the study is to identify what situations increase the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19.
- The results of the study will contribute valuable information which can be used to limit the spreading of infection in Oslo.
- We will ask the same questions to a sample of healthy Oslo residents in order to learn more about why some people become infected and others do not.
- The questions will concern what you have done and where you have stayed during the last 14 days before you began to experience symptoms. If you have not had any symptoms, we will ask what you did during the last 14 days before you were tested for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- A few days after you receive the text message with this information, you will be called by the market research company Kantar on behalf of NIPH. They will ask you to give your verbal consent to participate in the survey. Participation is voluntary. If you wish to participate, you will be asked to take part in a telephone interview which takes about 10-12 minutes.

#### **What is the aim of the survey?**

A new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) which causes the disease COVID-19 has spread worldwide, including Norway. An important part of Norway's strategy for controlling the spread of infection is targeted infection tracking in order to identify cases, so that measures can be implemented to prevent further infection. Unfortunately, it became apparent during autumn 2020 that it would not be possible to determine where a person had been infected in up to 30% of infection cases in Oslo. We therefore need your help to systematically map the situations which increase the risk of spreading of infection in Oslo. Understanding more about where infection occurs and how it spreads among the population is important in order to improve the advice that is given and to target measures to limit further spreading of the infection. The main aim of the study is to identify what situations increase the chances of becoming infected with coronavirus in Oslo. The project is being conducted by NIPH in partnership with the City of Oslo.

#### **Why are you being invited to participate?**

We are inviting you to take part in the study because you are between 18 and 70 years old, are resident in Oslo and have recently tested positive for coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).

In addition, a sample of Oslo residents will be randomly selected from the National Population Register and invited to participate as healthy control subjects.

### **What will participating involve?**

- A few days after you receive the text message with a link to this information, you will be called by the market research company Kantar on behalf of NIPH.
- They will ask you to give your verbal consent to participate in the survey.
- Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any time during the interview.
- If you wish to participate, you will be asked to take part in a telephone interview which takes about 10-12 minutes.
- During the interview, we will first ask you some general questions about your background, life situation and the number of people in your household. We will then ask you some questions about what you did during the last 14 days before you became ill (or the last 14 days before you had the test, if you have not experienced any symptoms). Finally, we will ask you some questions about what you think about various measures which are intended to limit the spread of infection in the population.
- This is a one-off survey and you will not be asked to participate in the same survey again or to respond to any other requests in connection with this study.

### **Possible benefits and disadvantages of participating**

By participating, you will help NIPH to acquire valuable information about the COVID-19 disease and how the spreading of infection takes place in Oslo. We will use this knowledge to develop more targeted measures to prevent further spreading of infection.

Your participation will not involve any form of medical treatment or sample-taking. You will participate by responding to a telephone interview.

### **What will happen to the information that is collected from you?**

The information that is registered about you will only be used as explained under the aim of the project. Any expansions as regards use and retention period will require the approval of the Regional Committee for Medical Research Ethics and other relevant authorities. You have the right to be told what information has been registered about you and to correct any errors in the data that is registered. You also have the right to be told about the security measures that have been implemented in connection with processing of the data.

All data about you will be treated confidentially and in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

When your data is processed, your identifying personal data (such as your name and national ID number) will be replaced by a code. This is called de-identification. A very limited number of project employees will have access to the link between this code and your personal data. Researchers will only have access to de-identified data. The project manager will be responsible for ensuring that information about you is processed securely. It will not be possible to identify any of the participants in the results of the study when the data is published.

The information about you will be retained for five years after the end of the project for control purposes. The project is scheduled to end on 31 December 2025, but may be extended with the approval of the Regional Committee for Medical Research Ethics.

### **Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw your consent**

Participation in the study is voluntary. You may withdraw your consent at any time without giving a reason. There will be no negative consequences for you or your follow-up or treatment if you do not wish to participate or subsequently decide to withdraw. If you withdraw your consent, no further research will be conducted using your health data. If you withdraw from the study, you may demand that data that has been collected about you be erased, unless it has already been used in scientific publications. If you have any questions regarding the study or you subsequently wish to withdraw, please contact the project manager by email or phone.

You can complain about the processing of your data to the Norwegian Data Protection Authority and NIPH's data protection officer (see below for contact details).

The project has been approved by the Regional Committee for Medical Research Ethics.

Under the new Norwegian Personal Data Act, the institution acting as controller, NIPH, and project manager Pawel Stefanoff have an independent responsibility to ensure that the processing of your data has a lawful basis. This project has its legal basis in Articles 6(1)(a) and 9(2)(a) of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation and your consent.

### **Do you have any questions about the study or participation?**

Contact us by email: [korona-oslo@fhi.no](mailto:korona-oslo@fhi.no) or by phone: Project manager Pawel Stefanoff on tel. 906 72 697.

If you have any questions about privacy and data security, please contact NIPH's data protection officer by email: [personvernombud@fhi.no](mailto:personvernombud@fhi.no).

The Norwegian Data Protection Authority can also be contacted by email: [postkasse@datatilsynet.no](mailto:postkasse@datatilsynet.no).