

Participant Information Sheet

What does my participation involve?

1 Introduction

You are invited to take part in the research project: *COVIDSafe: Perceptions and Practices*.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign a consent for that we will send you. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project

You will be emailed a digital a copy of the Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

2 What is the purpose of this research?

COVIDSafe: Perceptions and Practices seeks to explore how Australians are understanding and responding to changes arising from the COVID19 crisis at a community and personal level.

3 What does participation in this research involve?

Your participation (if you choose to be involved) in this project will involve an audio-recorded **digital interview or phone interview** with one of the research team.

If you would like to participate, please contact us through the "Get Involved" button on the page where you accessed this sheet to indicate your interest and to ask your preferred days and times for the interview, preferred digital platform or phone number.

On the day of the interview, at the agreed time, your interview will be conducted online or phone by one of the research team. The researcher will provide details about the project and answer any questions you have. They will ask you to email the consent form and discuss if there are any topics you do not want to talk about.

Once you are both ready and have confirmed the software works, the researcher will let you know when they have started audio-recording. Even if you use a video chat program, only the audio of the interview (e.g. what you say) will be recorded.

During the interview, the researcher may ask you questions about:

- Whether you downloaded the COVIDSafe app or not and why.
- We are interested in understanding motivations and how they might be informed by feelings around privacy, data and trust.
- Your perceptions of masks and mask wearing.
- Your experiences, concerns, recommendations and suggestions.

The expected length of the interview is 20 minutes.

After the interview, you will be emailed your interview transcript to review. You may like to indicate any identifying information that you do not want included as research data.

4 Other relevant information about the research project

Overall, it is expected that up to 30 participants will be interviewed. Ideally half who have downloaded the app, half that haven't.

5 Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you are interviewed, you may stop the interview at any time. You may also choose not to answer any questions that you do not wish to. For one month after the interview, you can withdraw from the project and all recordings will be deleted. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep. Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with RMIT University. This includes your research supervisors. The research team will not inform your supervisors or any other staff if you choose to participate or not.

6 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefit from this project other than the opportunity to talk about your experiences in terms of the COVID19. However, we are hoping that empirical research into this topic will allow for more informed and improved deployment of emergency mobile procedures in the future.

7 What are the risks and disadvantages of taking part?

Participation in the study is not expected to have any particular risks for interviewees. You will be able to control the direction of the conversation and you don't need to answer any questions you don't want to. We are keen to learn from your insights about the perceived risks and trust issues or feelings relating to the app.

If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, members of the research team will be able to discuss appropriate support for you. A list of organisations that offer practical, social and/or emotional support that you may contact as needed is attached to this form. These include general resources and those specific to different groups of students.

Confidentiality

The information you provide in the interviews will be used to inform research around mobile apps during disasters/ crisis. A pseudonym will be used and identifying information, such as references to your places and people, will be removed.

8 What if I withdraw from this research project?

You may stop the interview at any time. You may also choose not to answer any questions that you do not wish to during the interview. You will have up to one month after the interview to withdraw from the project. If you decide to withdraw at this point, all recordings will be deleted.

It will not be possible to remove information pertaining to you from academic publications, such as books, chapters, articles or conference papers, once they are published. You will however not be identifiable in any such publications.

9 What happens when the research project ends?

We are seeking to write academic publications and media report on the topic. The research may also be published as creative outputs or in academic journals, as books chapters or as a book, news media articles, and/or presented at conferences. This may take 12 months or more.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission.

How is the research project being conducted?

10 What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form we will send you, you consent to the research team collecting and using information from you for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. The audio recording will be professionally transcribed. Audio files and transcripts will be kept on a secure RMIT server for five years.

After data has been de-identified, only the research team will have access to the data. After five years, any identifying data will be destroyed. Members of the research team may choose to keep de-identified transcripts of the interviews for future research.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the research team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the research team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

Any information that you provide can be disclosed only if (1) it is to protect you or others from harm, (2) specifically allowed by law, (3) you provide the researchers with written permission. Any information obtained for the purpose of this research project that can identify you will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

11 Who is organising and funding the research?

This research project is being led by Professor Larissa Hjorth and colleagues and is funded by Design & Creative Practice (DCP) Research Platform.

12 Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This research project has been approved by the RMIT University HREC.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.