

Helping People to Protect Themselves from Coronavirus (COVID-19) at Home and School

Information for Participants

We are inviting you to give feedback about using the 'Germ Defence' website and to tell us about the things you are doing to keep yourself and others safe from coronavirus (COVID-19).

A quick summary of the study...

- We would like to talk to you about how you found using the Germ Defence website.
- We would also like to hear about the things you have been doing to keep yourself and others safe from Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- It doesn't matter if you liked the Germ Defence website or not, or even if you didn't use it very much. We are interested in hearing all sorts of feedback to help make it the best we can.
- If you take part, we will speak to you on the phone or a video call for up to 60 minutes.
- The study is being run by the University of Bristol and is funded by UK Research and Innovation/Department of Health and Social Care.

What do I do next?

- After you have read this information you can choose whether you want to take part.
- To take part, please get in touch using the "contact us" link or via email. The study team's contact details are at the bottom of this page.
- You can also contact us if anything is unclear or if you would like to ask questions.

What are you asking me to do?

Once you have told us you want to take part in the study...

- A researcher will get in touch to arrange a good time to talk on the phone/have a video call
- At the start of the call, we will ask you to confirm that you understand what the study is about and that you agree to take part. This will be audio-recorded and kept separate to the recording of your interview.
- The researcher will ask you what you think about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the things that have been put in place to keep you and others safe from Coronavirus in your/your child's school.
- The researcher will also ask you if you have anything to say about the website Germ Defence, and if you have any other ideas about how we can help you stay safe at school.
- The call will last for up to 60 minutes and will be recorded so that we can keep an accurate record of your views.

Are there benefits or risks?

- All participants will receive a **£20 Love2Shop voucher** for taking part
- Your feedback is very valuable and will help make Germ Defence as useful as possible for school staff, parents and students. Over time, this could help schools to “get back to normal” faster and find ways to make dealing with Coronavirus as school easier.
- It is not expected that the phone/video call should cause any distress. If you are worried about Coronavirus, you may feel distressed talking about it, but you can always choose not to answer a question. You can also pause and restart (or end) the interview at any time without giving a reason.
- The researcher is not a medical professional and so can’t answer any medical questions. They will suggest you speak to your GP or NHS 111 about medical questions, look at the support on the MIND website, or contact the Bristol Mental Health Crisis Service (01275 796209/341) if you are feeling concerned or worried about the virus.

What information will be collected?

- The recording of the telephone/video conversation will be typed up. These records will not include any names or other details that can identify you.
- We ask about your postcode and ethnic group so we can check we are speaking to a diverse range of participants. It will not be possible to identify you from any data we use in our reports.
- Your name, postcode and contact details will be stored during the study so we can contact you, and then deleted after the study has ended.

Will my information be confidential?

- Yes, all the confidential information will be held securely at the University of Bristol and will only be seen by people in the research team.
- There are only two ways that people outside the research team could see your information:
 - If the University staff need to carry out a standard check that research teams are storing people’s information properly.
 - If you share information that suggests your safety or someone else’s is at risk, the researcher may need to pass this on to support services.
- The recording of your telephone conversation will be typed up and your name, or any other details that can identify you, will be removed to ensure your privacy.
- The people who type up the interviews will have signed agreements to keep everything private.
- These transcripts will be stored as a password protected file on secure University of Bristol computers for up to 10 years. After this time, they will be destroyed.
- The recordings will be kept securely on the computer system at the University of Bristol which only the research team can access. The recordings will be destroyed when the study is complete.
- The findings from this study will be used in research reports and in making changes to the Germ Defence website, but no names will be included so any quotes from the interview will be anonymous.

- If you take part, you will be asked if you are happy for your interview, with the personal details removed, to be made available to researchers working on other relevant studies. You can still take part if you don't want this to happen.

Data protection

All your information will be stored in line with data protection laws. These laws allow personal information to be collected and stored for research providing you have understood the purpose of the research and freely given your consent. The law also requires the researchers to protect the information so that no one else can use it for any other purpose. The University of Bristol is responsible for making sure your data is carefully handled. To protect your rights, we will only collect the minimum amount of your personal data that is needed for us to complete the study.

You can find out more about how your data will be protected by contacting the research governance team at research-governance@bristol.ac.uk

What if I change my mind?

- It is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you agree to take part, you will need to contact the study team to arrange a time for the conversation to take place. At the start of the conversation, we will ask you to confirm that you understand what you are being asked to do and that you agree to take part.
- You have the right to change your mind and stop taking part at any time without giving a reason.
- If you wish to stop the call before the end of the conversation, all information collected to that point will be deleted.
- You will have up to two weeks after the call to withdraw your data from the study. If you contact the research team after this point your data may still be used.

What happens if there is a problem?

- If you have a concern about the study, please speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.
- If you are still unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the Research Governance Office at the University of Bristol: research-governance@bristol.ac.uk.
- The study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Bristol, Psychological Science School Research Ethics Committee (Ref: 112184).

Contact details

- **To let us know you would like to take part**, or if you would like more information, please email the research team: germ-defence-schools@bristol.ac.uk to arrange a time for the call to take place.
- OR you can [CLICK HERE](#) to leave your details and we will get back to you.