

Dear Colleague,

Re: healthcareCOVID
GSTT Service Evaluation ID: 10834

Coronavirus infection 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has resulted in a global health crisis which has challenged healthcare systems around the world. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are over 3.2 million confirmed cases with over 227,000 deaths worldwide as of 2nd May 2020.¹ The incidence of COVID-19 in healthcare workers (HCWs) is thought to be higher than the general population due to exposure to higher viral loads from increased contact with infected individuals.²

[healthcareCOVID](#) is a national, cohort, snapshot service evaluation project aimed at investigating the risk factors associated with exposure and consequent infection with COVID-19 in the HCW population of UK. The study cohort will encompass HCWs involved in primary and secondary care, including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. An online questionnaire will facilitate data collection directly from each HCW. This questionnaire, which covers the period from 1st February 2020 to currently, will comprise basic demographic data, environmental exposure to COVID-19 and personal protective equipment (PPE) use. The results of this service evaluation will inform us of the prevalence and impact of COVID-19 on HCWs, establish a baseline covering the period from 1st Feb 2019 up until current day (signified by the end of the snapshot period), and provide better information and comparability for HCWs, institutions, and policy-makers.

Service Evaluation Questions

1. What is the prevalence of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infection amongst healthcare workers?
2. What risk factors are associated with COVID-19 infection amongst healthcare workers, stratified by demographics (including ethnicity), working environment and PPE use?
3. Is PPE practice adequate in limiting the rates of COVID-19 infection amongst healthcare workers with regards to exposure to suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases?

Participants who wish to be involved in [healthcareCOVID](#) will need to fill out a short survey at healthcarecovid.org during the snapshot period (Monday 4th May 2020 to Monday 18th May 2020). All entries will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and current GDPR standards.

As per the HRA decision tool, this project is regarded as service evaluation and not research and thus, does not require ethical approval (see **Appendix 1**). The project has been successfully registered at the sponsor site (Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust) as a service evaluation project (**ID 10834**).

Thank you for participating in this project, and please look after yourselves and your families in this difficult time.

Best wishes,

**Dr Kariem El-Boghdadly, Dr Imran Ahmad, Dr Justin Kua,
Dr Danny Wong, Dr Calvin Moorley and Dr Reshma Patel**
[healthcareCOVID](#) Team

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Is my study research?

i To print your result with title and IRAS Project ID please enter your details below:

Title of your research:

healthcareCOVID

IRAS Project ID (if available):

N/A

You selected:

- **'No'** - Are the participants in your study randomised to different groups?
- **'No'** - Does your study protocol demand changing treatment/ patient care from accepted standards for any of the patients involved?
- **'No'** - Are your findings going to be generalisable?

Your study would NOT be considered Research by the NHS.

You may still need other approvals.

Researchers requiring further advice (e.g. those not confident with the outcome of this tool) should contact their R&D office or sponsor in the first instance, or the **HRA** to discuss your study. If contacting the HRA for advice, do this by sending an outline of the project (maximum one page), summarising its purpose, methodology, type of participant and planned location as well as a copy of this results page and a summary of the aspects of the decision(s) that you need further advice on to the HRA Queries Line at Queries@hra.nhs.uk.

For more information please visit the [Defining Research](#) table.

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