
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Online Survey of Parents



Saw Swee Hock
School of Public Health

1. Project title

School Influenza Vaccination

2. Principal Investigator

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3. What is the purpose of this research?

You are invited to participate in a research study. This information sheet provides you with information about the research. Please read the information below before deciding whether or not to take part.

This online survey will help us understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of parents or guardians in Singapore towards influenza vaccination for children aged 12 years or below. Having you nominate two other individuals to complete the survey will also help us analyse the influences of individuals' social network on vaccine perception. The last 5 digits of nominees' and your telephone numbers will help us keep track of this referral process.

4. Who can participate in the research? What is the expected duration of my participation? What is the duration of this research?

You can participate in this survey if:

- You are a parent or a guardian of a child aged 12 years or below
- You are the main healthcare decision maker for the child
- You are English-literate
- You are aged 21 years or older

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The duration of the entire research project is three years.

5. What is the approximate number of participants involved?

We aim to recruit 1000 survey participants.

6. What will be done if I take part in this research?

You will complete an online survey on your knowledge, attitudes, and practices with regards to influenza vaccination. At the end of the survey, you will be asked to nominate two other people you know who have children aged 12 years or below.

We are also conducting interviews with a subset of parents to explore this topic further. If you are interested to take part in an interview, we will ask you to provide your name and contact details at the end of the survey. Our research team will then contact you to arrange an interview.

7. How will my privacy and the confidentiality of my research records be protected?

We will collect your partial mobile phone numbers only to link your survey responses with those of other survey respondents you nominate. Once we have done this, your responses will be identified using an anonymous unique code and your partial mobile number will be discarded. We will collect your contact details if you also wish to take part in an in-depth interview or focus group discussion, so that we can schedule an appointment with you.

All research data collected will be kept in accordance to the University's Research Data Management Policy. Research data used in publication will not contain any personal identifiers and will be kept for a minimum of 10 years before being discarded.

8. What are the possible discomforts and risks for participants?

There are no foreseeable discomforts or risks to you.

9. Will there be reimbursement for participation?

A retail voucher worth \$5 will be given to you for your time and participation once you complete the survey. At the end of the survey, you will be brought to a secure, de-linked webpage to enter the address to which you would like your voucher sent to; your address will not be linked your survey responses. You will receive an additional \$5 voucher for successful nominations. Nominees who complete the survey will also be reimbursed.

10. What are the possible benefits to me and to others?

There is no direct benefit to you by participating in this research. However, the information you provide will help inform public health interventions to prevent and control influenza among young children in Singapore.

11. Can I refuse to participate in this research?

Yes, you can. Your decision to participate in this research is voluntary and completely up to you. You can also withdraw from the online survey at any time. There is no penalty for refusing to take part or withdrawing from the research. However, it will not be possible to withdraw the data that you have provided in the survey once we have coded your responses and discarded your partial mobile number.

12. Whom should I call if I have any questions or problems?

Please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr Clarence Tam by telephone (6516 4987) or email (Clarence.tam@nus.edu.sg) for all research-related matters.

For an independent opinion regarding the research and the rights of research participants, you may contact a staff member of the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board (Attn: Dr Chan Tuck Wai, at telephone (+65) 6516 1234 or email at irb@nus.edu.sg).

You may download a copy of this Participant Information Sheet for your reference.