

## Information Sheet for Patients

### Serological surveillance of COVID-19

Please take time to read this information, and discuss it with your health care professional. If there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information, please ask us or email [practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk).

#### **Overview**

We are collecting blood samples to look at the background immunity of the population to COVID-19. This would entail your health care professional taking an additional bottle of blood from patients who are coming into the practice for a **prescheduled blood test**.

#### **Do I need to fill out additional paperwork?**

No. As this falls under health protection regulation 3, you would only need to give verbal consent.

#### **Will it be tested for COVID-19?**

The blood samples will be used to look at the **background immunity** of the population to COVID-19. This would be done by measuring the levels of antibodies to COVID-19. As you are aware, you may be exposed to a disease and never get it but have antibodies due to the exposure (same as when you get a vaccine).

However, as this virus is new, there is not enough information about what levels of antibodies would mean adequate protection. The results from the lab will not provide any information to your clinician on whether you are protected from COVID-19 or not.

As our blood sample will not be tested for the presence of COVID-19, there will be no results to send back to your general practice.

#### **What is the purpose of this and why is it important?**

COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease. However, as this is a new disease, we are still learning about how it spreads and its effect on humans. Analysing the blood samples will help us better understand this virus.

#### **What will happen if I don't want to give a blood sample?**

If you choose not to give a blood sample, an additional bottle of blood will not be collected. Your health care professional will only collect bloods for your other specified blood test(s).

#### **What will happen to me if I agree to give a blood sample?**

If you agree and provide verbal consent, your health care professional will take an additional sample of blood when you present for your scheduled blood test.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

No. A decision to take part is entirely voluntary.

#### **Are there any possible disadvantages or risks from taking part?**

We consider the procedure for the blood test to be low risk. As you are already having a scheduled blood test, you will not require an additional needle to be inserted into a vein in the arm. Usually, this procedure causes some minor pain and might result in bruising.

#### **What if I want further information?**

If you would like further information please contact:

Practice Liaison Officer team

E-mail: [practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01865 617198, 01865 617281, 01483688293

*Thank you for reading this information.*