

## Participant Information Sheet

*This document may contain some statements that you do not understand. Please ask the Principal Investigator or his/her representative to give you explanations until everything is clearly understood.*

**Title of Research Project:** Social, ethical and behavioural aspects of COVID-19 (SEB-COV study)

**Name of Principal Investigator:** Associate Professor Phaik Yeong Cheah

**Research Sites:** Thailand, Malaysia, Italy, United Kingdom and Slovenia (carried out by the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Thailand)

**Source of Funding:** Wellcome Trust

### Objectives of the Research Project:

This research aims to study the social, ethical and behavioural aspects of the novel coronavirus pandemic in regard to quarantine, self-isolation, social distancing and travel restrictions. The project aims to provide evidences to health authorities and personnel working to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and effectively communicate with the general public about the pandemic. This is a multi-country study being conducted in Thailand, Malaysia, Italy and the United Kingdom.

You're invited to join the interview and share your opinions if you are:

- 18 years old and over
- Able to use a computer/smart phone
- Can spare 30-45 minutes of your time for an interview

### What you will be asked to do, if you agree to participate in the study?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in one-on-one interview with a member of our research team. You will receive an email from us to make an appointment for an interview and you will be asked to electronically sign the Informed Consent Form **before the interview**. The interview will be conducted online (via the Microsoft Teams platform) or via telephone. All interviews will be audio recorded and online interviews will use video function, where possible (videos will not be recorded). Interviews will last approximately 30-45 minutes.

During the interview, we want to find out how the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting your life. In particular, we are interested to hear about out how current governmental measures, such as social distancing, travel restrictions and social isolation/quarantine are affecting your daily life, including your social life, income and your general wellbeing.

## Risk and/or potential discomfort

This research is a minimal risk study. You may feel inconvenienced by taking time out of your day to be part of this study. If you have to leave at any time, you are free to discontinue the study. The interview includes some questions about how you have been coping under the current pandemic and you may feel upset answering some of these questions. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to. If you feel uncomfortable during the interview, you can stop or withdraw from the study at any time.

## Name of the researcher who can be contacted

If any concern arises and you wish to inquire about the research, you can contact:

1. Chief investigator: Associate Professor Phaik Yeong Cheah  
Email: [phaikyeong@tropmedres.ac](mailto:phaikyeong@tropmedres.ac); Tel: +66-84-324-4534
2. Country coordinator UK: Mira Schneiders  
Email: [mira@tropmedres.ac](mailto:mira@tropmedres.ac)

## Compensation

You will receive a £10 Tesco voucher for your time taking part in this study.

## Benefits to the research participant and others

There is no direct benefit to participating in this study. You may enjoy the chance to speak to the researcher about your current situation. You may also value the opportunity to contribute to this research project, which will contribute to knowledge on how the Coronavirus is affecting people's lives. Short summary reports of the research findings will be made available periodically to support the work of public health authorities and researchers.

## Assuring confidentiality

Your private information will be kept confidential, it will not be disclosed individually, but anonymised quotes from your interview may be used in research reports and publications. Individual information may be examined by groups of persons, e.g. the Ethics Committee, funding organizations.

**You have the right to withdraw from the project at any time** without prior notice, or the investigator can withdraw you from the study at any time if necessary. In both cases, your data will be deleted. Not participating in the study or withdrawing from the study will not affect your access to health care services in any way.

**If you are not treated as indicated in this information sheet**, you can inform the Ethics Committee at the Ethics Committee, Office of Research Services, 4th Floor, The 60th Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne Building, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, 420/6 Ratchawithi Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400. Tel 66-2-306-9126.

You can also inform the Oxford Tropical Research Ethics Committee (OxTREC) at [oxtrec@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxtrec@admin.ox.ac.uk)

### Data protection

In the course of completing the interview, you will have provided information about yourself ('personal data'). We (the University of Oxford) are the 'data controller' for this information, which means we decide how to use it and are responsible for looking after it in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and associated data protection legislation.

### How we use your data

The audio recording of your interview will be transcribed anonymously, and interview transcripts will be stored electronically in a secure, password protected file. Any contact details (email address, name and telephone number) you provide will be stored separately from the interview transcript and will not be linked to anything you say during the interview. Your private information will be kept confidential, it will not be disclosed individually. However, the findings from this research project will be disseminated through research reports and publications and anonymised quotes from your interview may be used in these reports.

We will process your data for these purposes only because you have given us your consent to do so. You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us at [SEBCOV@tropmedres.ac](mailto:SEBCOV@tropmedres.ac). In this event, we will stop the processing as soon as we can. However, this will not affect the lawfulness of any processing carried out before your withdrawal of consent.

We will only use your data for the purposes for which we collected it, unless we reasonably consider that we need to use it for another related reason and that reason is compatible with the original purpose. If we need to use your data for an unrelated purpose, we will seek your consent to use it for that new purpose.

### Who has access to your data?

Access to your data within the University will be provided to those who need to view it as part of their work in carrying out the purposes described above.

We may share your data with companies who provide services to us, such as for transcribing audio interviews. These companies are required to take appropriate security measures to protect your data in line with our policies. We do not allow them to use your data for their own purposes. We permit them to process your data only for specified purposes and in accordance with our instructions. Where we share your data with a third party, we will seek to share the minimum amount necessary.

## Retaining your data

Your contact details will be deleted after the interview. All audio files will be destroyed when all transcriptions have been completed and verified. We will only retain your data for as long as we need it to meet our purposes, including any relating to legal, accounting, or reporting requirements.

## Security

Your data will be held securely in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Further information is available on the University's Information Security website.

## Where we store and use your data

We store and use your data on University premises, in electronic and manual form. Electronic data may be transferred to, and stored at, a destination outside the European Economic Area ("EEA"), as the study runs in the UK, Italy, Malaysia and Thailand. Such transfers will only take place if one of the following applies:

- the country receiving the data is considered by the EU to provide an adequate level of data protection;
- the organisation receiving the data is covered by an arrangement recognised by the EU as providing an adequate standard of data protection e.g. transfers to companies that are certified under the EU US Privacy Shield;
- the transfer is governed by approved contractual clauses;
- the transfer has your consent;
- the transfer is necessary for the performance of a contract with you or to take steps requested by you prior to entering into that contract; or
- the transfer is necessary for the performance of a contract with another person, which is in your interests.

## Your rights

Information on your rights in relation to your personal data are explained [here](#).

## Contact

If you wish to raise any queries or concerns about our use of your data, please contact us at [SEBCOV@tropmedres.ac](mailto:SEBCOV@tropmedres.ac).

## Informed Consent Form

I hereby express my consent to participate in the research project entitled “Social, ethical and behavioural aspects of the novel coronavirus pandemic”

- I have been given and had read the information in this Participant Information Sheet explaining this study.
- All questions I had on this study have been answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand that I have the ability to withdraw and discontinue with the study at any time.
- I understand that I will be audio recorded during the individual interview discussion unless I object and that I can ask for anything I say or do to be erased. I am aware that the audio recording will not be played or shared with anyone else outside the research team.
- I understand that all the information I provide will be used for the purposes of this study only.
- Of my own free will I agree to take part in this study.

I thoroughly understand the statements in the Participant Information Sheet and Informed Consent Form, and I hereby give my signature.

Participant Signature.....

*(Signing by e-signature or by typing your full name is acceptable)*

(.....)

*(Type your full name above)*

Day/Month/Year .....

Researcher/ Consent Obtainer’s Signature.....

*(Signing by e-signature or by typing your full name is acceptable)*

(.....)

*(Type your full name above)*

Day/Month/Year .....