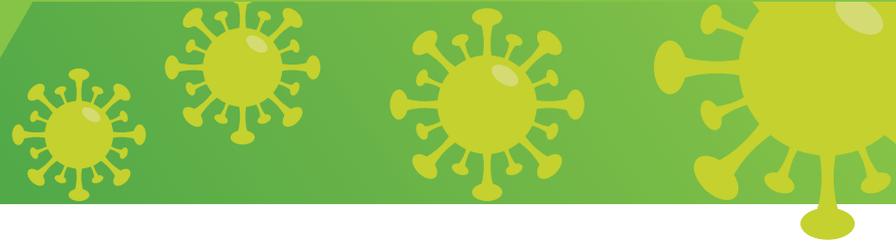


# COVID-19

## UNMASKED



Title of Research Project: COVID-19 UNMASKED: Supporting young children  
Human Research Ethics Approval Number: HREC/2020/QCHQ/63632

# Caregiver information statement

Thank you for your interest in this survey.

This research will help us understand how young children and their families are coping with the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. This information will help us learn how to better support families over the next 12-months as well as during other unusual or extreme events in the future, like natural disasters.

**It is OK to say no or change your mind and stop at any time!**

## What's the research project about?

We know people's everyday lives have changed a lot as we try to stop COVID-19 from spreading. So far, we don't know much about how young children (under 6 years) and their families are being affected by these changes.

This study will help us:

- Understand the different types of experiences young children and families are having
- Understand how young children are coping with the changes
- Understand how caregivers are coping and supporting their children during this time
- Learn how to better support young children and families during and after COVID-19 and other large-scale community events (e.g. natural disasters).

## Who can join the research?

Any adult (18 years or older) who is caring for a child aged between 1-5 years of age can join the research. You will need to be able to complete surveys online (on the internet) and in English.

## What's involved?

We will ask you to fill out online surveys at 4 separate time points to see how things change over the next year:

- Time 1: An initial survey now (approximately 20 minutes)
- Time 2: 3 months after starting point (10-15 minutes)
- Time 3: 6 months after starting point (10-15 minutes)
- Time 4: 12 months after starting point (10-15 minutes)

**If you only wish to complete some of the surveys, you can do so.**



## What if I want to withdraw from the research project?

You can stop this study at any time simply by not completing any of the surveys that are emailed to you. If you want to withdraw and stop receiving emails, please email the Project Manager (see below).

## Will my child or family benefit if I join the research?

This project may not directly benefit you or your child. However, completing the surveys will give you a chance to think about how your child and family are coping. Your answers will help us learn how to better understand and care for young children and families now and into the future.

## Will my information be private and confidential?

Yes. When you fill out your survey, you are asked to provide your email address so we can send you the survey links. However, your email address will be removed from your answers and deleted. We won't pass on your email address to anyone else. All information will be collected and stored online and on Queensland Health and University servers that meet Australian privacy and data security requirements. The information you provide will be anonymous and confidential and combined with information we receive from other families. What we learn from this information will be summarised and shared with families, health services and other researchers. We may use this data in future research projects and provide it to other researchers to help progress knowledge (if Human Research Ethics Committee's approve). You may also be invited to participate in future studies about natural disasters.

## Will there be any risks for me or my child when completing this survey?

You may feel uncomfortable answering some questions about how COVID-19 is affecting your child and family. But you don't have to answer any question you don't feel comfortable answering. If you have any concerns or questions, there is support information provided below and at the end of the survey.

- If you need to talk to someone immediately, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 44
- You may also wish to consider consulting your General Practitioner (GP) for additional support.
- Online resources to support the emotional wellbeing of babies, young children, and families for during COVID-19 and after natural disasters can be found here: [Birdie's Tree](#)
- You can call 1800RESPECT for confidential information and support for family violence.

## Who should I contact for more information?

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, please contact the Project Manager, Dr Alexandra De Young via phone 07 3266 3100 or email [Alex.DeYoung@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Alex.DeYoung@health.qld.gov.au).

**Take the survey**

**HREC INFORMATION:** The Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study. If you have any concerns and/or complaints about the project, the way it is being conducted or your child's rights as a research participant, and would like to speak to someone independent of the project, please contact the HREC Co-ordinator on 07 3069 7002 or email [CHQETHICS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHQETHICS@health.qld.gov.au)

## Research team:

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