



INVESTIGATING THE BURDEN OF CHICKENPOX IN ENGLAND

Participant Information Sheet

We would like to invite you to take part in the above named study but before you decide, please read the following information.

What is the purpose of this study?

Chickenpox (sometimes called varicella zoster infection) is one of the most common childhood infections in England. However, we know very little about the overall effect having a child with chickenpox has on a family. This study aims to improve our understanding of the effect the illness has on the child and the family.

At the moment, a vaccine against chickenpox is available for use in the UK for children over one year of age. However, the vaccine is not offered as part of the routine vaccination programme given to children. The results of this study will help us understand more about the effect that chickenpox has on families, and may help decide if more can be done to reduce the impact of chickenpox.

Who is doing the study?

This study will be conducted by the Yorkshire and Humber Field Service team, based in Leeds, part of Public Health England's National Infection Service. The study is being organised and funded by Public Health England.

Who is being asked to take part?

Parents and carers of primary school aged children who attend a primary school in Yorkshire and Humber are being asked to take part in this study. Primary schools have been chosen at random (by chance) from a list of all the primary schools in Yorkshire and Humber. You have received this information sheet because your child attends a primary school that has been randomly chosen to take part in this study. We are asking for the parents and carers of primary school aged children to take part in this study because children of this age are the most likely group to have recently had chickenpox.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary. You do not have to take part if you do not wish to.



What will be involved if I take part in this study?

If you would like to take part in this study, please click on the link below, or scan the QR code on your smart phone. This will take you to an online questionnaire for you to complete.

<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I2KJ7981H>



The questionnaire will ask you questions about whether your child has ever had chickenpox, how severe their chickenpox infection was, whether they had to visit any healthcare services for their infection, whether they had to have time off school because of their chickenpox and whether you (their parent/carer) had to take time off work because of their illness. The questionnaire should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. You should be able to complete this questionnaire on any device with access to the internet (a smart phone, computer, tablet etc). **This questionnaire is anonymous - we will not ask you to provide any personal information that might identify you or your child.**

If you would like to complete this questionnaire in a different language, please contact the Yorkshire and Humber Field Service on YHFES@phe.gov.uk. We will then arrange for the questionnaire to be translated for you into your chosen language.

What are the advantages/benefits and disadvantages/risks of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to you from taking part in this study. However, the information that you provide will help us understand more about chickenpox infection and will be taken into consideration when making national plans for preventing chickenpox.

There will be no risks to you from taking part in this study.

Can I withdraw from the study at any time?

Because you are not providing us with any information that might identify you or your children, you will not be able to withdraw from this study after completing the questionnaire, and the information you give in the questionnaire will be used in the data analysis. However, you do not have to complete the questionnaire if you don't want to.

Will the information I give be kept confidential?

You will not be asked for any personal data in the questionnaire that might identify you or your children. The online questionnaire will be answered in a programme called



Select Survey, which is a secure website. Data entered on questionnaire will be directly downloaded and stored by Public Health England on a secure server. Once the data from the questionnaire has been downloaded, the original data in Select Survey will be destroyed.

All data will be stored according to PHE policy and held according to the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and the Data Protection Act (2018). In accordance with the Public Health England Records Retention and Disposal Schedule (2018), this anonymised data will be held for 20 years before being destroyed.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study will be written up as a publication in a scientific journal and will be submitted to a public health conference for presentation. The results of this study will also contribute information to the national body that works on national vaccination policy.

Who has reviewed this study?

Approval for this study has been received from the Public Health England Research Ethics and Governance Group.

Who do I contact in the event of a complaint?

Complaints Manager
Strategy Directorate
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

Alternatively, you can e-mail complaints@phe.gov.uk

Full details at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/complaints><https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you agree to take part, would like more information or have any questions or concerns about the study please contact:

Dr Elizabeth Smout, Field Epidemiology Training Programme Fellow
Field Service, National Infection Service
Public Health England
2nd Floor, Blenheim House, Duncombe Street, Leeds, LS1 4PL
Email: elizabeth.smout@phe.gov.uk
Tel: 0113 85 57477

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.