

Participant Information Sheet

REACT-LC sub-study:

Indoor Air Quality Measurements and Modelling in London Homes (IAQM study)

Principal Investigator: Dr Sean Beevers - Imperial College London (ICL), Dr David Green (ICL)

Co-investigators: Dr Tuan Vu (ICL), Dr Michael Hedge (ICL)

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TAKING PART IN THE AIR QUALITY SURVEY

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Whether you take part in the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

YOUR ROLE

WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

To take part in the study you need to follow the instructions in the study invitation. We will ask you to complete a questionnaire about your home environment and yourself (Phase I). From everyone who completes the questionnaire, we will select about 50 participants based on their housing type to host three new air-quality devices in their homes for a month (Phase II). Among those who express interest in Phase II, we will group participants into five housing categories—detached houses, semi-detached houses, terraced houses, flats and bungalows—with the number selected in each category weighted to reflect the London housing stock. Within each housing group, participants will be randomly selected.

If your home is selected, we will send you three small air quality monitoring devices along with clear instructions via post. You will be asked to unpack and place the devices in your kitchen, living room, and bedroom for a four-week period. After that, you will package the devices, apply our label and send back to us.

Our research team has developed these compact devices to measure air pollution, temperature, humidity, and mould levels inside the home (as shown in the picture below). The devices are designed to be easy to use — they do not require a power cable or Wi-Fi connection.



WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART?

You took part in the REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission-Long Covid (REACT- LC) study and agreed that we could contact you again about future research opportunities. As part of the REACT-LC project we are exploring the impact of environmental factors on Long COVID and other health outcomes, and this study will provide additional data for that analysis. As a volunteer, you will contribute to important environmental health research that may help shape future public health policy and practice.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

You will be part of a unique study helping us gather information about the sources and levels of pollution inside homes in London. You and your family will be invited to participate in a 3-hour online workshop. The workshop will provide an overview of air pollution and its health impacts, explain the aims of this project, and summarise our findings on indoor air pollution exposure and their implications. It will also include an interactive session on practical mitigation strategies, with opportunities for participants to share experiences, ask questions, and discuss implementation challenges.

Additionally, if you are selected for Phase II (device deployment in your home), we will compensate you with a £50 Amazon voucher as a thank you for your participation. Furthermore, once we have processed the data, we will provide you with a summary report of the data gathered in your home. Together with the report, we will also provide advice and information as to how to reduce personal exposure to harmful pollutants, as well as details about who you can contact to receive further advice and information on how to reduce the identified sources of pollution.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT TAKING PART?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. If you decide that you no longer want to continue in this study, please contact a member of the IAQM Team and we will arrange collection of the equipment from you.

Any already collected data will be anonymised and used for analysis in the study unless you explicitly tell us otherwise. If you wish to withdraw from the study, you should inform the IAQM Team assigned to your home (first point of contact) so arrangements can be made to collect the air pollution sensor.

ARE THERE OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE STUDY?

We may ask you to take a few photos of where you place the sensors in your home. This will help us better understand the context of the data we collect and improve the interpretation of our findings. Of course, this is completely optional and up to you.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MOVE HOMES BETWEEN CAMPAIGNS?

If you move homes between Phase I and Phase II and your new home is still within London, you will be welcome to remain in the study. If you move to a different area, unfortunately, you would not be able to continue in our study. Any already collected data will be used for analysis in the study unless you tell us otherwise.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES AND RISKS OF TAKING PART?

There are very few risks to you/your family with this study. We are just asking you to host air pollution sensors in your home. Nothing in the equipment is dangerous or can harm you/the people that live with you in any way.

To maintain a familiar and trusted face for the study, your home will be assigned two IAQM team members, who will act as your single and consistent point of contact throughout the study

OUR ROLE

WHO IS CARRYING OUT THIS RESEARCH?

This research is being run by doctors and researchers from Imperial College London. This research is funded by the Social genetic and environmental determinants of health theme NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre, Imperial College London.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Air pollution is considered the largest environmental health risk to public health in the UK. Even though we spend most of our time indoors, almost all research on this topic is based on measurements of air pollution outdoors. It is therefore important that we improve our understanding of air pollution in our homes - where it comes from, how it behaves and how harmful it is. This will allow us to make effective recommendations to householders, authorities and policy makers to create healthier home environments. Working with over 50 households from across England, the IAQM aims to investigate the quality of air both inside and outside the home.

WHO HAS REVIEWED THE STUDY?

To protect your interests, all research at Imperial College London is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee. This study has been reviewed and granted a favourable opinion by the South Central Berkshire B Research Ethics Committee.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

The results of this study may be shared in many different ways, such as being published in medical journals, presented at meetings of scientists and reported to both Imperial College, London and the Health Research Authority who oversee and review how research takes place in England. No personally identifiable information about you will be made available outside of the study team.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact Dr Sean Beevers via email: iaqm.study-WP@groups.imperial.ac.uk

YOUR DATA

HOW WILL WE USE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?

Imperial College London is the sponsor for this study and will act as the Data Controller for this study. Being a Data Controller means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately plus are responsible for explaining this to you. Imperial College London will keep your personal data for:

- 20 years after the study has completed in relation to primary research data.

The study data will then be fully anonymised and securely archived or destroyed.

The study is expected to finish in September 2045

For more information / confirmation regarding the end date please contact the study team, see [‘WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED’](#) for contact information.

People within Imperial and the study team (see section sharing your information with others) will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that research is being done properly and the information held (such as contact details) is accurate.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead.

Imperial College London is the sponsor of this research and is responsible for looking after your information.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure by:

- Data management plans have been created and reviewed in line with Imperial’s Information Governance Policy Framework. This covers the collection, movement, processing and storage of the data.
- Data to be stored in a dedicated secure environment which underpins security measures.
- Data will be stored in ISO 27001 certified and/or Cyber Essentials accredited environment
- Robust pseudonymisation has been implemented to prevent identification
- Access controls have been implemented to ensure only key personnel can access the data.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

As a university we use personally-identifiable information to conduct research to improve services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study. Our legal basis for using your information under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, is as follows:

- Imperial College London - “performance of a task carried out in the public interest”; Health and care research should serve the public interest, which means that we have to demonstrate that our research serves the interests of society as a whole. We do this by following the [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research](#)

Where special category personal information is involved (most commonly health data, biometric data i.e. finger prints or facial recognition and genetic data, racial and ethnic data etc.), Imperial College London rely on “scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

There may be a requirement to transfer information to countries outside the United Kingdom (for example, to a research partner). Where this information contains your personal data, Imperial College London will ensure that it is transferred in accordance with data protection legislation.

SHARING YOUR INFORMATION WITH OTHERS

We will only share your personal data with certain third parties for the purposes referred to in this participant information sheet and by relying on the legal basis for processing your data as set out above.

- Other Imperial College London employees (including staff involved directly with the research study or as part of certain secondary activities which may include support functions, internal audits, ensuring accuracy of contact details etc.), agents, contractors and service providers (for example, suppliers of printing and mailing services, email communication services or web services, or suppliers who help us carry out any of the activities described above). Our third party service providers are required to enter into data processing agreements with us. We only permit them to process your personal data for specified purposes and in accordance with our policies.

POTENTIAL USE OF STUDY DATA FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

When you agree to take part in a research study, the information collected either as part of the study or in preparation for the study (such as contact details) may, if you consent, be provided to researchers running other research studies at Imperial College London and in other organisations which may be universities or organisations involved in research in this country or abroad. Your information will only be used to conduct research in accordance with legislation including the GDPR and the [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research](#).

This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you, used against you or used to make decisions about you.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES ABOUT HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED?

- You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.
- you have the right to ask us to access, remove, change or delete data we hold about you for the purposes of the study. You can also object to our processing of your data. We might not always be able to do this if it means we cannot use your data to do the research. If so, we will tell you why we cannot do this.
- If you agree to take part in this study, you will have the option to take part in future research using your data saved from this study.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED?

You can find out more about how we use your information, including the specific mechanism used by us when transferring your personal data out of the UK.

- at www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/data-protection-and-informationgovernance/gdpr-guidance/templates/template-wording-for-generic-information-document/
- by sending an email to iaqm.study-WP@groups.imperial.ac.uk

CAN I CLAIM COMPENSATION IF I AM HARMED DURING THE STUDY?

If you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study then you should immediately inform the Investigator (Dr Sean Beevers, email: iaqm.study-WP@groups.imperial.ac.uk). The normal National Health Service complaints mechanisms are also available to you.

HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

If you wish to raise a complaint about how we have handled your personal data, please contact the research team first by sending an email toiaqm.study-WP@groups.imperial.ac.uk.

Following our response, if you are not satisfied please contact Imperial College London's Data Protection Officer via email at dpo@imperial.ac.uk via telephone on 020 7594 3502 and/or via post at Imperial College London, Data Protection Officer, Faculty Building Level 4, London SW7 2AZ

If you remain unsatisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)- via www.ico.org.uk. Please note the ICO does recommend that you seek to resolve matters with the data controller (us) first before involving them.

Thank you for reading the information sheet!