

## PARTICIPANT PRIVACY INFORMATION

**Research Study Title:** Privacy-preserving healthcare data for wastewater-based epidemiology (21IC6591)

Imperial College London is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information about COVID-19-related hospital admissions previously collected by the NHS in order to undertake this study, and we will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Imperial College London will keep information about you for the duration of the research (until 31/12/2021), and we will delete identifiable information relating to you when the project concludes.

Further information on Imperial College London's retention periods may be found at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/records-and-archives/public/RetentionSchedule.pdf>.

A link to Imperial College London's data protection webpage may be found at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/legal-services-office/data-protection/> but this is the notice most applicable to the information provided by participants and therefore takes precedence for all purposes described hereunder.

### YOUR RIGHTS

Your usual statutory rights to access, change or move your information are limited, because of exceptions applicable to some types of research, and also because we need to manage your information in specific, lawful ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

### LEGAL BASIS

As a university we use personally-identifiable information to conduct research to improve health, care and services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable. This means that during the study period, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study.

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](#).

### INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

There may be a requirement to transfer information to countries outside the European Economic Area (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. If the data is transferred to a country which is not subject to a European Commission (EC) adequacy decision in respect of its data protection standards, Imperial College London will enter into a data sharing agreement with the recipient organisation that incorporates EC approved standard contractual clauses that safeguard how your personal data is processed.

### HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED

Imperial College London will collect information about you for this research study from NHS digital. NHS digital will not provide any identifying information about you to Imperial College London. We will

use this information to estimate how many people have been admitted to hospital with COVID-19 within the catchment area of wastewater treatment works across the United Kingdom. This research will help us better understand how wastewater-based monitoring of the pandemic can predict pressure on healthcare services.

You can find out more about how we use your information

- on the website of the funder of this research (<https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/projects/how-can-healthcare-data-be-connected-with-wastewater-surveillance-of-covid-19-in-a-privacy-preserving-fashion-to-inform-epidemiological-models-and-democratise-data-access/>),
- by sending an email to [t.hoffmann@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:t.hoffmann@imperial.ac.uk).

## **COMPLAINT**

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data or if you want to find out more about how we use your information, please contact Imperial College London's Data Protection Officer via email at [dpo@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@imperial.ac.uk), via telephone on 020 7594 3502 and via post at Imperial College London, Data Protection Officer, Faculty Building Level 4, London SW7 2AZ.

If you are not satisfied 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). The ICO does recommend that you seek to resolve matters with the data controller (us) first before involving the regulator.