

CAR Study Fact Sheet

What is the CAR study?

The CAR study stands for **C**ontacts **A**t **R**isk for the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19). The CAR study is taking place at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and other hospitals that make up Partners HealthCare. The goal is to find out who is at risk for COVID-19 and how it spreads. What we learn will help with prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

Why am I and other members of my household being asked to take part in the study?

We are asking you to participate because somebody in your household was diagnosed with COVID-19 at MGH or another hospital in the Partners HealthCare system. We would like you and others in your home to provide us with information on symptoms and possible exposures to the virus.

What does the study involve and what will happen while I participate?

You will be asked to fill out a short survey about medical conditions, symptoms, and possible exposures to COVID-19. This can be done on the phone or by email. We will also mail you supplies to collect some blood from your fingertip (called a fingerstick). You can collect the blood yourself and mail it back to us. The tests that we perform on the samples are for research purposes only. Therefore, we will not provide the test results back to you. Your decision to take part in the study will not affect your medical care. The blood test and survey will help us learn more about how COVID-19 is spread and how to prevent it in the future.

What are the possible risks, discomforts, and benefits of the study?

You may develop a small bruise from the fingerstick. There is a small risk of loss of privacy. Though you will not benefit directly from the study, your survey answers and blood sample may provide information about the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

How will you protect my privacy?

We protect your privacy by using a unique code instead of your name to label your samples and health information. Only certain people on the research team will be able to connect your name to your samples and health information. We will not share any information that can identify you with the public or other organizations we work with. We may save your samples and health information for use in future research. If we do so, we will make it so that it won't be possible to link the information back to you.

Does the study include any information about my genes?

We may take a close look at the DNA in your blood. Again, we will use a unique code to identify your samples and will not share any information that will identify you.

Are the emails from this study private?

This study involves sending you emails which have a link to a survey. The emails we send you are not secure (unencrypted) and can result in the unauthorized use or disclosure of any information in the email. However, the emails we send will not contain any personal information. The only information in the emails will be your first name and a link to an online survey. Information entered on the online survey is secure and private (encrypted). If you prefer, we can call you to do the survey over the phone.

What happens if I do not want to be a part of the study?

Being part of this research study is up to you. You can decide not to take part. If you decide to take part, you can change your mind later. Your decision won't change the medical care you get now or in the future.

Do you have any questions or concerns about the study?

Please don't hesitate to contact us. We want to hear from you!

If you have any questions about the surveys or sample kits, call or email the research coordinator, Elizabeth Oliver M-F from 9am-4pm at 617-643-3667 - carstudy@mgh.harvard.edu

Dr. Regina LaRocque is the person in charge of this research study. You can call her at 617-643-5557 Monday through Friday 9 am – 5 pm. You can also call Dr. Jason Harris at 617-643-5564 Monday through Friday 9 am – 5 pm with questions about this research study.

If you want to speak with someone not directly involved in this research study, please contact the Partners Human Research Committee office. You can call them at 857-282-1900.

For more information, visit our website at <https://www.massgeneral.org/medicine/infectious-diseases/research-and-initiatives/covid-19-car-study>.