CO-SPYCE Study

COVID-19: Supporting Parents and Young Children during Epidemics

**Participant information sheet**



**General Information**

The Co-SPYCE study will tell us how families are coping during the covid-19 (corona virus) pandemic, and what parents can do to help support their young children’s mental health. We hope this will help us to understand the needs of families at this time. We will share the findings to help others to provide the right support.

Thank you for your interest in this online survey. You have been invited to take part because you are the parent or carer of a child who is aged 2-4 years and you are

living in the UK. Please read through this information before agreeing to take part by ticking the ‘yes’ box below.

You may ask any questions before deciding to take part by contacting the researchers (Pete Lawrence, School of Psychology, University of Southampton, and Helen Dodd, School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading, details below).

You will be asked to answer some questions about you and your child. The questions relate to your family life and relationships, overall health and wellbeing, parenting, psychological symptoms and how you are coping during the Covid-19 pandemic. The questions cover quite a lot of areas so that we can get a really

good understanding of how things are for you and your family currently, which will help us better understand what kind of support parents might need.

You don’t need any background knowledge and there are no right or wrong answers. The survey should take around 20 minutes but you can take a break and come back to it if you wish.

We would also like you to answer some shorter follow-up surveys (around 10 minutes each) while social isolation is taking place at further time points (monthly, and/or when there are major changes in Government advice around isolation). We will ask you for an email address so that we can contact you for the follow-up surveys.

The information you give us will be analysed by academic researchers at the University of Southampton, University of Reading, and University of Oxford and other institutions that have been approved by the research team so that we can work out the best way to support families.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part is voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point during the questionnaire for any reason before submitting your answers by pressing the ‘Exit’ button / closing the browser. You can opt out of taking part in future surveys at any point by ignoring or unsubscribing from

follow-up emails. You will then not be sent any further surveys to complete.

**How will my data be used?**

We will take all reasonable steps to make sure that your answers remain confidential. Your email address will be removed from the rest of the answers you give before any analysis takes place and will be deleted as soon as the study finishes. Your email address will not be passed to any third parties.

Your data will be stored in a password-protected file and may be used in academic publications. Because we will anonymise your data, it will not be possible to withdraw your answers after they have been submitted but you can withdraw from future surveys at any point. Your IP address will not be stored.

Research data will be stored for a minimum of three years after publication or public release of the findings of the research.

Because we will anonymise the data, we will not be able to act upon any individual responses to the survey.

**Who will have access to my data?**

The University of Southampton is ‘the data controller’ with respect to your personal data, and so will decide how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this research, or if you feel that you have been placed at risk, you may contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

We would also like your permission to use your anonymised data in future studies, and to share data with other researchers (e.g., in online databases). Any personal information (your email address) that could identify you will be removed or changed before files are shared with other researchers or results are made public.

Responsible members of the University of Southampton and funders may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure we are complying with guidelines, or as otherwise required by law.

The Principal Researcher is Dr Pete Lawrence, who is attached to the School of Psychology at the University of Southampton.

This project has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Southampton Research Ethics Committee (ERGO: 56217).

**How do I find out about the results?**

We will provide information about the results of this study through the Emerging Minds Network website (www.emergingminds.org.uk). You can sign up to receive updates from Emerging Minds here: https://emergingminds.org.uk/contact/

**Whom do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to Pete Lawrence or Helen Dodd, emails:

p.j.lawrence@soton.ac.uk; h.f.dodd@reading.ac.uk, and they will do their best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and let you know how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

Please note that you may only participate in this survey if you are 18 years of age or over.

☐ I certify that I am 18 years of age or over.

If you have read the information above and agree to participate with the understanding that the data (including any personal data) you submit will be processed accordingly, please check the relevant box below to get started.

☐ Yes, I agree to take part

If you have any concerns about your child’s mental health or would like further support, please visit <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/>. If you have concerns about your own or another adults' mental health please visit [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org/) or call the Samaritans on 116 123. You can also visit [www.emergingminds.org.uk](http://www.emergingminds.org.uk/) for their resources list for supporting children and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic.