



BC SPEAK Population Health Survey

Information and Consent Form

Principal Investigator

Dr. Jat Sandhu

Senior Executive Director, Innovation, Partnerships and Population Health Management

BC Centre for Disease Control BC Centre for Disease Control

655 West 12th Ave Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

604-707-2400

Introduction

The BC Population Survey (the "Survey") has been developed as a result of the continuing global COVID-19 pandemic. After an initial focus on the emergency response to COVID-19, there is now a greater emphasis on post-pandemic recovery, which requires ongoing public health surveillance and response activities. Understanding the unintended impacts on the social, economic, physical health, mental wellness and resiliency of communities is important. The BC Centre for Disease Control ("BCCDC"), a part of the Provincial Health Services Authority, wants to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for all B.C. residents, to plan the recovery and learn how we can support you through this next phase.

Purpose of the Survey

We want to learn more about our communities' experience, and how the current environment around us may affect our health, wellness, and lives in general. We also want to learn how this has changed from May 2020 to now. The responses from the Survey will be used to inform our plans going forward. As a resident of B.C., you are invited to participate in the Survey.

Procedures

The Survey is voluntary and available via the internet. If you decide to participate in the Survey, you may answer as many questions as you wish. The Survey includes questions to guide decision-makers with regard to managing the ongoing pandemic disease burden, experiences and unintended consequences, and broader policy considerations and equity to support recovery. It is estimated that the Survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Risks and Benefits

We do not anticipate any harm will be caused to you by completing the Survey. Some of the questions we ask may seem sensitive or personal; you do not have to answer a question in the Survey if you do not want to. The Survey results will help us understand and improve our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may benefit from the Survey if there are improved prevention efforts and services put in place that reduce community transmission and improve recovery from the pandemic.

Privacy and Confidentiality

We are collecting your personal information under the authority of sections 26 (c) and (e) of the B.C. *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA"). The information you provide to us will only be used for the purposes we have outlined in this Form. Questions regarding the collection of your personal information or requests for records may be directed to the Information Access Privacy office that supports BCCDC at privacyandfoi@phsa.ca or 604.707.5833

Your privacy and confidentiality will be respected at all times. You will not be identified in any reports, and information that discloses your identity will not be released.

The platforms used to collect Survey and registration data are fully compliant with FIPPA. The Survey data is kept secure and is stored and backed up in Canada.

At the end of the Survey, you will be asked for your contact information if you wish to be contacted for future population public health projects related to BC's response and recovery from the wide impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and be prepared to better meet your needs.

At the end of the Survey, you will also be asked for your Personal Health Number ("PHN"), which can be found on your B.C. Services Card, BC 'Driver's license, or your CareCard. Provision of PHN will facilitate more meaningful population-level analysis by linking your responses to administrative health databases to better understand healthcare use and guide health system planning and recovery from the pandemic.

In support of the BC's public health response, BCCDC will also ask if you wish to be contacted about research opportunities to help with recovery from the pandemic. You can participate in the Survey even if you do not provide your PHN or contact information.

Data Access and Storage

The Survey data will be safely stored within the secure computer network of BCCDC. After Survey data is downloaded onto 'BCCDC's secure network folders, it will be encrypted to protect the information. Any personally identifiable information will be stored separately from the Survey responses and be encrypted. Access to Survey data will be strictly limited to the Survey project team. All analyses of Survey responses will be reported in aggregate to ensure participant confidentiality. Data will only be used for the purposes of the BC COVID-19 response as outlined in this form.

Sharing the Results

The results from this Survey will be made publicly available on the BCCDC website in the reports and graphics. Any information released will be summarized and will not identify any participant.

Population-level findings from the Survey, which will be de-identified to protect your privacy, will be shared with health professionals, community partners and agencies, and the academic community to better support the response activities to COVID-19.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions about the Survey or how your information is used to support our public health response, contact the Survey project team at covid19.speak@bccdc.ca.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the University of British Columbia Office of Research Ethics by e-mail at RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or by phone at 604-822-8598 (Toll Free: 1-877-822-8598.)

Participant Consent

Your participation in this Survey is completely voluntary and will not affect any health care services or other government services you receive currently or in the future.

You are free to withdraw at any time. If you withdraw, you may request that your data be removed from the Survey database if you have provided us with your PHN and contact information as part of your response. At the end of the data collection and once the data has been analyzed and made publicly available at an aggregate level, participants will be unable to withdraw their Survey data.

The research ethics number is H22-01403.

By completing the Survey, **you agree that consent has been given.**