Coping with Loneliness, Isolation and Covid-19 – online survey

We would like to understand how people are coping during the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to learn about the issues you face and how you are managing with social distancing and changes to everyday life.

You can offer invaluable insights into life before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, including key challenges faced and coping strategies used. This information will help us understand how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on individuals, families, communities, policies and services at both a country and global level and will be key to informing society in the future.

**Things you should know about this study:**

**The purpose of the study**

Is to understand how people experience loneliness and isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Who is doing this study?**

This study is being undertaken by a group of International academic researchers who are part of the International Loneliness and Isolation research NetworK (I-LINK).

The Institute of Public Health is the point of contact for I-LINK and provides support to its members and co-ordinates its work.

Read more about our work here <https://publichealth.ie/ilink/>

**What will happen if I agree to take part?**

This online survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. If you wish, in 4 - 6 week’s time, you can complete the survey again. Provide the first answer that comes to mind and do not spend too much time considering your choices.

**Are there any risks?**

Thinking about some of the questions might be upsetting for some people. Apart from that, there are no risks involved. If anything in this survey upsets you, or you are feeling in any way distressed, please don’t hesitate to get in contact with us and let us know or contact a health professional or any of the organisations listed for anonymous support. You may also wish to read the web information on COVID-19 listed below

**Will there be any benefit if I take part?**

There will be no benefit to you personally, but sharing your experience may help others.

**Is this survey confidential?**

Yes, completely. We will not ask you for any personal information that would identify you. The data will be stored securely. Nothing in the data would allow someone to identify you.

**Is the survey voluntary?**

Yes. You do not have to take part. And if you decide not to answer some questions, you do not have to.

**How do I consent?**

By clicking the box below, you agree to take part in the survey and you declare that you are at least 18 years old.

**What will happen to information you collect about me?**

Ulster University is the sponsor or managing organisation for this study and we will use information gathered from you to carry it out. This means that when you agree to take part in a study, we will use your data to conduct the research and analyse the information and findings, however in this study we are not collecting any data that can personally identify you. By completing the consent box at the end of this page, you are giving your permission for us to use your non-identifiable data. You can find out more about how we look after this data at: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/about/governance/compliance/gdpr>

The anonymous survey data will be used to undertake analysis on the impact of COVID19 to inform help research, policies and services at both a country and global level.

**How do I contact the study team?**

If you have any queries about the study you can contact the study team

General Queries

Dr Annette Burns - annette.burns@publichealth.ie

Research Queries

Professor Roger O’Sullivan - roger.osullivan@publichealth.ie or

Governance and Ethics Queries

Professor Gerry Leavey - g.leavey@ulster.ac.uk

Complaints

Professor Gerry Leavey - g.leavey@ulster.ac.uk

Additional researchers involved in this study and their institutes are listed below for your information:

Prof Christina Victor Brunel University

Dr Joanna McHugh Power Maynooth University

Prof Vanessa Burholt University of Auckland & Swansea University

Prof Thomas Prohaska George Mason University

Prof Brian Lawlor Trinity College Dublin

Dr Jeannette Golden St James’s Hospital, Dublin

Dr Mary Pat Sullivan Nipissing University

Prof Louise Hawkley University of Chicago

Prof Mark Tully Ulster University

Prof James Lubben Boston College

Prof Julianne Holt-Lunstad Brigham Young University

Prof Theo vanTilburg Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Dr Carla Perissinotto University of California, San Francisco

Prof Iracema Leroi Trinity College Dublin

Prof Kavita Sivaramakrishnan Columbia University

Prof Vegard Skirbekk Columbia University

Prof Linda Fried Columbia University

**External Resources**

**Below are resources which can be accessed to obtain information on COVID-19 and the contact details for support organisations.**

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| **WHO COVID-19**<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> | **WHO - Mental Health** <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-technical-guidance/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak-technical-guidance-europe/mental-health-and-covid-19> |
| **Samaritans**<https://www.samaritans.org/> | **Befrienders**<https://www.befrienders.org/> |