



WHAT IS THE SURVEY ABOUT?

In one way or another, we have all been affected by COVID-19 this year. While we all know about the pandemic, and while we see the numbers of confirmed positive cases reported every day, little is known about the actual extent of this disease across the country. It is estimated that a large number of people have had / have COVID-19 but have not been tested for it, due to testing restrictions or other reasons. In some cases, people have had it but have not experienced any symptoms or have only had mild symptoms related to the disease.

The COVID-19 Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) requested the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and its research partners including Epicentre, the National Institute for Infectious Diseases (NICD), the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), to conduct the NCAS to provide information on:

- the actual number of people that have had COVID 19 infections
 - the proportion of people who were infected but did not show any signs and symptoms (were asymptomatic) of the infection.
 - the nature of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country and the factors that are driving it
- This will inform the national response with regard to planning for the prevention of further infections

HOW WILL THIS SURVEY BE DONE?

- We will interview about 19 000 people from all areas in the country
- All people 12 years and older will be invited to participate
- Trained field teams will visit the selected households and will conduct interviews using a short questionnaire that will include the history of infection, exposure to contacts, co-morbidities, and practices such as hand washing and social distancing
- The questionnaire will take no more than 10-20 minutes.
- The majority of participants will be asked to provide a small amount of blood by a qualified nurse in order to test for COVID-19 antibodies.
- Some participants who live in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Tshwane will be asked to provide an additional amount of blood to allow us to do other tests that will help us understand more about how the body responds to the COVID-19 disease.
- The blood results will be linked to the information provided in the questionnaires to understand how COVID-19 is spread in communities



WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- Your participation is important because it will provide information that will help us to estimate the actual number of people that have been infected with COVID-19 as well as the risk factors that communities are experiencing.
- This will help the National Department of Health and the Ministerial Advisory Committee to understand the epidemic better and it will inform how they respond to COVID-19.
- Participation is voluntary and we urge all members from the selected households to participate by making their voices count so that hopefully we can manage the impact of COVID-19 on all our lives in the future!

For information on the progress of the study, please visit the HSRC website for more information www.hsrc.ac.za or on our social media platforms on:

 <https://www.facebook.com/HumanSciencesResearchCouncil>

 @HSRCza

Social media Hashtags

#COVID-19survey

#PlayedMyRole

#PlayYourPart

#KnowYourCountryEpidemic

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