

ATHENA COVID-19 Study

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The **A**ustralians **T**ogether **H**Health **I**Niti**A**tive

This study has the support of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), all seven Primary Health Networks in Queensland and Queensland Health. The study is funded by the Health Innovation Investment and Research Office, Queensland Health.

Summary of the study

This research study undertaken by Queensland Health and partners aims to answer vital questions about which medical conditions, medicines and other health characteristics are more likely to make patients infected with COVID-19 develop mild, moderate, or severe forms of the disease.

All our evidence to date has come primarily from overseas countries who were ahead of us in the pandemic, but not Australia. It is therefore essential that we obtain local data as patient outcomes may be very different in Australia.

We can do this by obtaining copies of all patients' health records who had COVID-19 in Queensland and combining them together for research analyses. By health records we mean those held in hospitals and general practices.

In order to achieve access to these records, we need each patient's consent. This means we will be contacting all patients who had COVID-19 and inviting them to participate in the study. By giving consent, this will allow us to contact each patient's General Practice (GP) and asking their GP to securely transfer a copy of that patient's health record/information into Queensland Health where it can be linked with any of their other health information within the hospital.

All the health information provided to researchers outside of Queensland Health is de-identified. De-identification means removing identifying information from the data and samples i.e. you will be known to these researchers by a code and not by your name.

The combined de-identified health information will then be analysed by experienced researchers.

The study has registered Human Ethics Committee approval and is compliant with all privacy legislation.

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How do I participate?

- Our hospital records in Queensland Health indicate that you or your child have or have had, COVID-19.
- This is an information pack containing information about the study and the consent forms
- We would be grateful if you could read these, in particular the patient information and consent and withdrawal forms.
- A member of our project team will contact you by phone in the next few days to discuss the study.
- During the phone call you will be invited to participate in the study by consenting three activities. 1. You will be asked for consent for your GP record to be transferred into Queensland Health. 2. You will also be asked if you consent to any data and samples collected from you to be used in future non-interventional research (that will be approved by an ethics committee). This won't require you to do anything other than signing the consent form and 3. You will be asked if you agree to be recontacted to be asked to participate in future research, where your active participation is required. This research will be approved by an ethics committee before you are contacted to consider your involvement. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary.
- If you agree to participate, we will ask for your verbal consent or written consent, whichever you prefer to give.
- We will ask your permission to record that part of the phone call if you choose to give your verbal consent.
- If you would prefer to give written consent, a self-addressed envelope is also provided which you can send back to us at the coordination centre.
- You can also scan and send your signed consent form to the email address below.
- Patient health information provided by general practices will be securely transferred one-time only after your consent to Queensland Health in a secure file transfer format.
- All data provided to the researchers external to Queensland Health for analysis will be de-identified. De-identification means removing identifying information from the data and samples i.e. you will be known to these researchers by a code and not by your name

For further information please contact the ATHENA COVID-19 coordination centre on Tel: (07) 3184 4167, or email: ATHENACV19@health.qld.gov.au You can also go to our website: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/research-projects/athena-covid-19>

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