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Pandemic tracking of healthcare workers cohort and questionnaire study

Submission date
19/01/2021

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
14/04/2021

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
15/02/2022

Condition category
Infections and Infestations

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
The WHO characterised COVID-19 as a pandemic after 118,000 cases and 4,291 deaths. Cases have continued to rise and now 400,000 deaths have been reported. National guidance has recommended physical distancing to reduce transmission of the virus, although healthcare workers are expected to continue with normal patterns of working in order to care for those with the virus. There is early evidence that there is up to a 12-fold increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in healthcare workers, and there have been 245 reported fatalities in UK healthcare workers.

In an environment where there is increased exposure, it is important to understand the occupational, personal, medical and genetics factors which predispose healthcare workers to contracting the virus and make individuals at risk of poor outcomes. There have been a number of epidemiological and serological studies which have identified risk factors such as age, gender and certain pre-existing conditions, but there is less evidence looking evidence in the healthcare worker population.

We set up a study under the Human Tissue Authority licence at the Nottingham Tissue Bank (PANTHER Tissue study) to allow healthcare workers (and their household contacts) to donate samples for testing for research purposes. As of June 2020, 640 participants have consented to donate tissue and over 3000 samples have been collected. This tissue will be subjected to antibody testing, and genetic sequencing to help understand the prevalence of COVID-19 in the healthcare worker population and genetic factors which influence COVID-19.

We would now like to contact participants to invite them to take part in a linked questionnaire study to enrich the human tissue authority study date by providing details about whether they experienced COVID-19 symptoms, their general health and wellbeing (including comorbidities), health related quality of life, and personal and occupational exposure along with questions related to their home circumstances.

Who can participate?
Healthcare workers and their household contacts who have donated blood to the Nottingham Tissue Bank for use in COVID research

What does the study involve?
Participants will complete sets of questionnaires at baseline and 12 weeks later.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
None

Where is the study run from?
1. University of Nottingham (UK)
2. Nottingham University Hospitals (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
April 2020 to November 2021

Who is funding the study?
1. The Medical Research Council (UK)
2. UK Research and Innovation
3. Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre (UK)

Who is the main contact?
1. Jessica Nightingale, jessica.nightingale@nuh.nhs.uk.
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Miss Jess Nightingale

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)
285436

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)
47035

Study information

Scientific Title
PANdemic Tracking of HEalthcare woRkers Cohort and Questionnaire study

Acronym
PANTHER Cohort

Study objectives
Healthcare workers are more likely to develop COVID than non-healthcare workers. It is anticipated that certain characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity, occupational exposure) confer an increased risk of infection, and severe disease.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 27/10/2020 North West - Greater Manchester South Research Ethics Committee (Barlow House, 3rd Floor, 4 Minshull Street, Manchester, M1 3DZ, UK; +44 (0)207 104 8063; gmsouth.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 20/NW/0395

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Observational cohort study

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 infection)

Interventions
We set up a study under the Human Tissue Authority licence at the Nottingham Tissue Bank (Licence holder:
Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, Licenced Tissue Bank (no. 11035)) to allow healthcare workers (and their
household contacts) to donate blood samples for COVID research. We would now like to contact participants to invite them to take part in a linked questionnaire study to enrich the data collected under the human tissue authority licence by providing details about whether they experienced COVID symptoms, their general health and wellbeing (including comorbidities), health related quality of life, and personal and occupational exposure.

Participants will be asked to complete two questionnaires to provide health and wellbeing information. The first questionnaire will ask about their health and behaviour prior to lockdown and their health and behaviour during lockdown to the point of the first questionnaire. The second questionnaire will be sent at 12 weeks after recruitment and will ask participants to reflect on their health and behaviours in the previous 12 weeks. The questionnaire will ask the individual to provide details of their general health and wellbeing (including PHQ-9 and

comorbidities), health related quality of life (EQ-5D-5L), and personal and occupational exposure (These questionnaires and questions are included in the questionnaire attached to the checklist). It will also ask individuals whether they have experienced COVID symptoms, had a positive COVID test or episodes of self-isolation. Participants will initially be sent the questionnaire by post. The postal communication will include a covering letter, participant information sheet, CRF and SAE. Individuals who fail to respond on the 1st attempt will be sent a reminder letter and second copy of the questionnaire.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
Health-related quality of life (EQ-5D) at baseline and 12 weeks

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Development of COVID symptoms and antibodies during COVID pandemic, based on self-reporting and blood serology. This was measured during the first national lockdown, at the end of the first national lockdown, and in April 2021
2. Mood assessment measured using PHQ9 during the first national lockdown, at the end of the first national lockdown, and in April 2021

Completion date
01/11/2021

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Healthcare workers and their household contacts who have donated blood to the Nottingham Tissue Bank for use in COVID research
2. Capacity to consent
3. Speak English
4. Minimum age 16 years, no upper age limit

Participant type(s)
Mixed

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
Declined to be contacted for future research

Date of first enrolment
01/12/2020

Date of final enrolment
01/08/2021

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Queen's Medical Centre
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Derby Road
Nottingham
United Kingdom
NG7 2UH

Study participating centre
Nottingham University Hospital
The Queen's Medical Centre Campus
Derby Road
Nottingham
United Kingdom
NG7 2UH

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Nottingham

ROR
https://ror.org/01ee9ar58

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name

UK Research and Innovation; Grant Codes: MR/V027883/1

Alternative Name(s)
UKRI

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name
Medical Research Council

Alternative Name(s)
Medical Research Council (United Kingdom), UK Medical Research Council, Medical Research Committee and Advisory Council, MRC

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name
Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be stored in a publically available repository.

IPD sharing plan summary
Stored in repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?

Results article		14/02/2022	15/02/2022	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes