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The psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHS affiliated staff – monitoring the response to the pandemic and the evaluation of local and national staff support programmes

Submission date
11/09/2020

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
30/09/2020

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
30/08/2022

Condition category
Mental and Behavioural Disorders

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

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
COVID-19 is a condition caused by the coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2) that was first identified in late 2019. This virus can infect the respiratory (breathing) system. Some people do not have symptoms but can carry the virus and pass it on to others. People who have developed the condition may develop a fever and/or a continuous cough among other symptoms. This can develop into pneumonia. Pneumonia is a chest infection where the small air pockets of the lungs, called alveoli, fill with liquid and make it more difficult to breathe.
In 2020, the virus has spread to many countries around the world and neither a vaccine against the virus or specific treatment for COVID-19 has yet been developed. As of April 2020, it is advised that people minimize travel and social contact, and regularly wash their hands to reduce the spread of the virus.
Groups who are at a higher risk from infection with the virus, and therefore of developing COVID-19, include people aged over 70 years, people who have long-term health conditions (such as asthma or diabetes), people who have a weakened immune system and people who are pregnant. People in these groups, and people who might come into contact with them, can reduce this risk by following the up-to-date advice to reduce the spread of the virus.
This study will investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychological health and wellbeing of NHS staff in England.

Who can participate?
All staff working at or with a participating NHS Trust

What does the study involve?
A combination of online questionnaires and, with a smaller group of participants, more detailed telephone interviews. Participants will complete questionnaires about their health, distress, and work environment at the start of the study and 4 and 8 months later. The follow-up over time is

to see whether the participants' mental health improves or worsens and to identify which groups of staff may need tailored support. The questionnaire has been produced alongside healthcare staff in local NHS Trusts. The researchers have formed a study steering panel consisting of representatives whose support they have already gained (e.g., unions, employers, and different staff groups). They will feedback emerging results to participating Trusts, networks, their partners, and NHS England, from which they have full encouragement, to help them prepare for future psychological health and workforce planning needs.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Although there are no immediate individual benefits of taking part, participants will have the unique opportunity to contribute to some innovative and valuable research which may later be used across the world. Individuals may also find it helpful to reflect on the current situation and anonymously express their feelings concerning a stressful and unprecedented global event. The results will feed directly into supporting the NHS workforce during the pandemic. It is hoped that this research will help bring about improvements in policies and practices for NHS colleagues now and in the future. The researchers do not foresee any risks occurring from participation but if the questions lead to any distress they direct all participants who would like emotional support or find completing the survey causes distress to reach out to someone they trust. They also provide suggestions of outside support which can be accessed.

Where is the study run from?
This study is a collaborative effort led by a research team at King’s College London and King’s Health Partners supported by expert clinicians, frontline staff and researchers across different NHS Trusts and Universities, and the NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
April 2020 to April 2022

Who is funding the study?
1. King's College London (KCL) (UK)
2. NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at the Maudsley (UK)
3. Rosetrees Trust (UK)
4. University College London (UCL) (UK)
5. Medical Research Council (MRC) (UK)

Who is the main contact?
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Contact information

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Scientific

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Public

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)
282686

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)
46176

Study information

Scientific Title
NHS CHECK: The psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHS affiliated staff – monitoring the response to the pandemic and the evaluation of local and national staff support programmes

Acronym
NHS CHECK

Study objectives
To establish a cohort of NHS-affiliated staff to investigate the short, medium- and longer-term psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on staff performance and wellbeing.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
REC review not required as this study involves NHS staff
Approved 24/04/2020, Health Research Authority (HRA) (address and tel not provided; approvals@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 20/HRA/2107

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Multicentre cohort study

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
The psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHS affiliated staff – monitoring response to the pandemic and the evaluation of local and national staff support programmes

Interventions
Baseline online survey launched in April 2020 followed by repeated surveys at month 4, 8 and 12. The 4-month survey includes an evaluation of staff support programmes. A subset of participants will also be invited to participate in psychiatric diagnostic interviews between month 4 and month 8.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
General (non-psychotic) psychiatric morbidity, resilience, anxiety, depression, wellbeing, moral injury and burnout measured using online survey at baseline, month 4 and 12

Key secondary outcome(s)
Tiered and tailored staff support programmes being implemented locally and nationally, evaluated using online survey at month 4

Completion date
23/04/2022

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Affiliated NHS member of staff, working at, or with, the participating NHS Trusts during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Aged 18 and over
3. Able to give informed consent to take part in research
4. Able to understand and communicate in English
5. Have access to the internet to complete the surveys
6. Have access to an email address to facilitate survey registration and receive survey links

Participant type(s)
Health professional

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. If participants are not an affiliated NHS member of staff, working at, or with, the participating NHS Trusts
2. Aged under 18
3. Unable to give informed consent to take part in research
4. Unable to understand and communicate in English
5. No access to the internet to complete the surveys
6. No access to an email address to facilitate survey registration and receive survey links

Date of first enrolment
24/04/2020

Date of final enrolment
23/04/2022

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Westminster Bridge Rd
London
United Kingdom
SE1 7EH

Study participating centre
King's College Hospital
Denmark Hill
Brixton
London
United Kingdom
SE5 9RS

Study participating centre
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
Maudsley Hospital
Denmark Hill
London
United Kingdom
SE5 8AZ

Study participating centre
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Bristol
United Kingdom
BS16 2EW

Study participating centre
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
United Kingdom
GL1 2EL

Study participating centre
East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Turner Rd
Mile End
Colchester
United Kingdom
CO4 5JL

Study participating centre
University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
Uttoxeter Road
Derby
United Kingdom
DE22 3NE

Study participating centre
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Duncan Macmillan House
Porchester Road
Nottingham

United Kingdom
NG3 6AA

Study participating centre
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Foundation Trust
Infirmary Square
Leicester
United Kingdom
LE1 5WW

Study participating centre
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridge
United Kingdom
CB21 5EF

Study participating centre
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Colney Lane
Norwich
United Kingdom
NR4 7UY

Study participating centre
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Hills Road
Cambridge
United Kingdom
CB2 0QQ

Study participating centre
Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust
Fulwood House
Old Fulwood Road
Sheffield
United Kingdom
S10 3TH

Study participating centre

Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Sceptre Point
Sceptre Way
Walton Summit Rd
Walton Summit Centre
Preston
United Kingdom
PR5 6AW

Study participating centre
Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Middlesborough
United Kingdom
TS6 0SZ

Study participating centre
Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Wonford House
Dryden Rd
Exeter
United Kingdom
EX2 5AF

Study participating centre
Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Carew House, Beacon Technology Park
Dunmere Rd
Bodmin
Cornwall
United Kingdom
PL31 2QN

Study participating centre
Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Papworth Rd
Trumpington
Cambridge
United Kingdom
CB2 0AY

Sponsor information

Organisation
King's College London

ROR
https://ror.org/0220mzb33

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Rosetrees Trust

Alternative Name(s)
Rosetrees, Teresa Rosenbaum Golden Charitable Trust

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

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
University College London

Alternative Name(s)
University College London in United Kingdom, Collegium Universitatis Londinensis, UCL

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Universities (academic only)

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name
King’s College London

Alternative Name(s)
King's, Collegium Regium apud Londinenses, Collegium Regale Londinense, Collegium Regale Londiniense, KCL

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Universities (academic only)

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name
NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at the Maudsley

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The data-sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary
Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Preprint results	non-peer-reviewed baseline mental health survey results in preprint	22/01/2021	19/03/2021	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes