



Social and health impacts of stopping Covid-19: How has lockdown affected your life?

1. Invitation paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide if you want to take part, it is important you understand why this research is being done and what taking part will involve. Please take the time to read this information sheet and to discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear, or anything you would like more information about, please just ask. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be sent a copy of this Participant Information Sheet to keep or you can find it at www.scotlandinlockdown.co.uk.

2. What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to understand how the Covid-19 lockdown is affecting the lives of different groups in Scotland with a particular focus on people living with disabilities and long term health conditions, victim-survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, people within the criminal justice system, refugees, asylum seekers and people affected by destitution. By talking to members of these groups about their experiences we aim to identify key challenges people have experienced and the adaptations they have made to live in a world with Covid-19. The findings of this study will help us develop resources to inform policy development, improve worker training and support third sector organisations supporting people affected by Covid-19.

3. Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to take part in an interview for this study because we want to hear about your experiences of lockdown. In order to participate you must be aged 18 or over and be: disabled, living with a long-term health condition, a victim-survivor of domestic abuse or sexual violence, within the criminal justice system, a refugee, an asylum seeker or destitution-affected.

4. Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part unless you want to. Not taking part will not affect you in any way. If you decide to take part, you will be sent this information sheet electronically and it is also available at www.scotlandinlockdown.co.uk. We would like to check that you understand what taking part means and that you are happy to take part in the interview before it begins. We will check whether you still consent at the end. You can change your mind about taking part at any time, including before, during and after the interview. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to.

5. What does taking part involve?

Taking part involves an interview lasting around 30-45 minutes. Because of the lockdown, this interview will be done using a video-based platform that works best for you (Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp Video), by phone or if you prefer by email or by WhatsApp chat. It is up to you which you choose. The interview will take place at a time that suits you and we can send you the interview questions in advance. We would like to audio record the interview (we will not do any video recordings), after which it will be written out and anything that can identify you will be taken out. This will be stored securely on the University server, which means that no-one except the researchers can access it. Your interview will be put together with other people's to allow us to understand how Covid-19 is affecting different groups. We will share these findings on our project website (www.scotlandinlockdown.co.uk) and in policy briefings and academic journal articles and at conferences. You will not be able to be identified from anything we publish.

Because we would like to talk to you about Covid-19 and how it is affecting your life, there may be some questions you find difficult or upsetting to answer. You will not be pushed to answer any questions, and you do not have to answer any questions you do not want to, but we will listen to you talk about how Covid-19 is affecting you, even if it is upsetting. At the moment, many services are struggling meaning that it may be more difficult than usual to contact services. Please consider this when deciding whether or not to take part.

6. What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?

Taking part in an interview will involve being asked what has been challenging about Covid-19 for you: this may prompt difficult or upsetting answers. Because of the pressures on different services, it may be more difficult than usual for you to access support. You should carefully consider these risks before taking part, and remember that you can end the interview at any time if you do decide to take part.

However, participation creates a space for your voice – and the voices of people who are not always heard in times of crisis – to be heard. Your participation will contribute to research intended to highlight the harms of

social and policy responses to Covid-19, and which we hope will help shape policy. By contributing your voice and your story, you can help us highlight the impact of Covid-19 on people's lives.

7. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Your participation in this study will be confidential. We will not tell anyone who we did and did not talk to. No-one outside of the research team will be able to find out your name or any other information which could identify you. However, if you tell us something during the interview that makes us worried that someone might be in danger of harm, we may have to share this relevant services to ensure safety and protection.

8. What will happen to the information you have about me?

If you take part, we will need to know your name and contact details to arrange the interview. These will be stored on a password protected computer at the University of Glasgow until after the interview, after which they will be deleted.

We would also like to record the interview with you. After the interview it will be written out and anything that can identify you will be taken out. With your permission, it will be stored on a password protected computer at the University of Glasgow for ten years. This is so we can help future researchers by sharing your words with them. You do not have to agree to this in order to take part.

If you want to see what we have found out, you can read our blog posts and publications on the project website (www.scotlandinlockdown.co.uk). However, if you wish to be kept informed in another way, let us know and we will add your name and contact details to the list of people who are interested in the findings. This will be stored securely on a University of Glasgow computer and separately from what you said in the interview.

All of the data we collect will be stored in line with the guidelines (called the GDPR) for collecting and processing personal information from individuals who live in the European Union.

If you decide during the interview that you no longer want to take part, the recording of your interview will be immediately deleted. If you decide this after your interview, please contact us as soon as possible.

Future research: As the current pandemic will last for an unknown period, and future pandemics may occur, the information we collect in this study may be important in future research after this project concludes. We will anonymise all research data (meaning we will take out any personal information that would make an individual identifiable) in the transcription

process. This anonymised data would then be stored securely in line with legal requirements (e.g. GDPR) and professional standards. We would seek to store this data in an open repository like the UK Data Service, which allows access to verified researchers on request. You do not have to agree to this in order to take part.

9. What will happen to the results of the research study?

We will share our findings in different ways. There will be regular blog posts during the six months of the project written for any interested person, policy briefings for policy makers, and journal articles and conference presentations for academics. Everything will be available on the project website at www.scotlandinlockdown.co.uk.

If you wish to read any of these but do not have internet access, please just contact us.

10. Who is organising and funding the research?

This project is being undertaken by a group of 18 sociologists at the University of Glasgow and relevant support organisations. It is being funded by the Scottish Chief Scientist Office.

11. Who has reviewed the study?

This project has been reviewed by the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow.

12. Contact for Further Information

If you wish to find out more about or take part in the study, you can email us at scotlockdown@glasgow.ac.uk, DM on Twitter at @LockScot or use the contact form on www.scotlandinlockdown.co.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.