



## **Participant Information Sheet**

### **Ethnic minority female health and social care workers' experiences with face masks**

You are being invited to participate in an online survey asking for ethnic minority female health and social care workers' to share their experiences with face masks'. This study is being implemented by Dr Amisha Desai and Dr Louise Jennings from the University of Leeds.

Before you decide to take part, it is important that you understand the purpose of the study and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully.

#### **What is the purpose of the study?**

Variations exist across the UK in the allocation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn by frontline health and social care workers when caring for patients with highly infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, when infection is spreading from person to person. The risk of dying with COVID-19 disease is higher in ethnic minorities groups rather than in White ethnic groups as reported by Public Health England in the latest descriptive review on disparities from COVID-19. Historically PPE has been designed to fit the average male (Hsiao et al. 2003, 2007; Larmour J. et al. 2010; Wagner et al. 2013). In addition, male and female preferences concerning PPE vary in a way that need to be considered in order to create products that reach out to ethnic minorities female users.

We are initially testing this hypothesis focusing on face masks in ethnic minorities female frontline health and social care workers by conducting an online survey. Safety and suitability regarding face masks vary in a way that needs to be considered in order to manufacture and supply face masks that reach out to a diverse population of health and social care workers.

#### **Why have I been chosen?**

You have been invited to participate in the study because we are looking for UK ethnic minorities female frontline health and social care workers to complete a questionnaire about their experiences using face masks. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you do decide to participate you be asked to sign a consent form.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. (I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time during the experiment and afterwards up until the anonymised data has been published without giving any reason and without there being any negative consequences). Furthermore, if there are any questions that you do not wish to answer, please feel free to decline.

#### **What do I have to do?**

The study requires you to complete an anonymous online survey. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

#### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We believe there are no known risks associated with this study; however, as with any online related activity the risk of a breach is always possible. Your participation in this study will remain confidential, and only anonymised data will be published. Upon completion of the



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study, we will keep the data for a minimum of three years. Further information is available via the University of Leeds Privacy Notice.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The information we obtain from the study will allow us to understand issues with face masks for ethnic minorities health and social care female workers. The results of the study can potentially contribute to a better understanding for development of face mask designs/technology, ultimately advancing safety and suitability for frontline female health and social care workers.

### **What will happen to my personal information?**

Participation in this study will remain confidential, and only anonymised data will be published. Upon completion of the study, we will keep the data for a minimum of three years.

### **What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research study's objectives?**

This online survey will be anonymous which means we will not collect any personal identifiable information from you, such as your name, address or contact details. However participants will be offered an opportunity to provide their email contact which may be used to invite 12 to 15 frontline health and social care workers to attend a meeting to further explore areas that surfaced through the survey allowing participants to contribute to the development of a future grant application.

All information we collect about you will be handled and stored securely in secure University IT systems and only the research team will have access to the raw data. Upon completion of the study, we will keep the data for a minimum of three years.

We aim to publish the results of the survey in an anonymised form.

### **Who is organising/ funding the research?**

The study is funded by University of Leeds Research Development Fund scheme.

### **Contact for further information**

If you would like more information, have any questions, or concerns about the study, please contact a member of the research team:

Dr Amisha Desai (Researcher) Email: [a.desai@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.desai@leeds.ac.uk)

### **Complaints**

If you have any complaints, please contact:

University of Leeds

School of Mechanical Engineering

Woodhouse Lane

Leeds LS2 9JT

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information.**

