

INFORMATION LETTER

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Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Information sheet

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused much devastation in a short period of time and continues to have negative health, social and financial impacts not just in South Africa, but on a global scale. As with any other aspect of life, knowledge is empowering and although we know much more about this disease and the virus that causes it now, compared to the beginning of the pandemic, there is still much more about Covid-19 that needs to be understood.

My name is Emily Andrew, and I am undertaking a Master's degree in Pharmacy at UKZN. You are being invited to consider participating in my study which will be evaluating therapeutic strategies and determining the re-infection rate of Covid-19.

The objectives of the study are:

- To investigate the various pharmacological and non-pharmacological methods used to manage the symptoms of Covid-19 by UKZN staff and students who tested positive for this disease since March 2020.
- To investigate the duration of common Covid-19 symptoms among UKZN staff and students who tested positive for this disease since March 2020.
- To investigate Covid-19 reinfections rates and patterns among UKZN staff and students who tested positive for this disease since March 2020.
- To investigate Covid-19 incidence and mortality rates among UKZN staff and students who tested positive for this disease between since March 2020.

Your involvement in this study, should you choose to participate, will include the completion of a questionnaire that will contain questions necessary to this study. The questionnaire should

take approximately 15-20 minutes of your time. The information will be used for educational purposes only, with the intent of being published. The participants are free to withhold any information they deem necessary and may decline to continue participation at any stage of the research.

Participation is purely voluntary, and no costs, penalties or consequences will be incurred upon refusal or withdrawal of participation at any stage of the research. Participants will remain anonymous and any personal information required will be strictly limited to what is necessary for this study.

The information provided may help in determining useful and effective strategies to combat this disease as well as in informing pandemic priorities by investigating the strength and duration of natural immunity by determining re-infection rates.

Approval to conduct this survey has been obtained by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Biomedical Research Ethics Committee (BREC), in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures: Protocol Reference Number: BREC/00003099/2021

In the event of any problems or concerns/questions, you may contact myself the researcher:
Cell number: 0815497239, Email: emilyandrew081@gmail.com

Or

The University's Ethics Committee at:

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION

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Research Supervisors are Rev Lehlohonolo Mathibe (mathibel@ukzn.ac.za) and Mrs Katy Harries (harriesk@ukzn.ac.za)

I look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

Emily Andrew