

## Participant Information Sheet

**Study Title:** Dynamics and outbreak control priorities in different sorts of Care Homes: measuring parameters to describe variation and inform models

**Lead Researchers:** Dr Andreia Sofia Teixeira, Prof István Zoltán Kiss

**Ethics reference number:** 2026-RE55

*Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not to take part.*

### What is the research about?

Northeastern University London is running a project on behalf of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The aim of the project is to support work to estimate and describe transmission of infectious diseases in different kinds of care homes. This will cover a range of care home types (small, large, learning disability, older adults and dementia) and enable statisticians and mathematicians to develop better models of disease transmission.

This will provide UKHSA with a stronger scientific evidence base to inform its guidance on Outbreak Control Measures (OCM) across different types of care homes.

### Why have I been asked to participate?

This project aims to better understand how contagious diseases spread in care homes of different sizes. UKHSA has provided a list of care homes to help the research team invite a range of services to take part. Northeastern University London is responsible for contacting care homes and managing participation. You have been contacted as a representative of a care home.

### What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part in the study, you can complete the survey in one of three ways:

- a) **Independently online;**
- b) **With online support** – we will complete the survey together during a Teams/Zoom call (includes clarification as we go through the questions);
- c) **With face-to-face support** – We will complete the survey together during an in-person visit to your Care Home (includes clarification as we go through the questions), with (2) or (3) being the preferred option.

The survey will be conducted by Dr Andreia Sofia Teixeira, Prof István Zoltán Kiss, or a member of their team (*i.e. Asia Maurich Novelli, Andres Guzman and Marko Lalovic*) at Northeastern University London, on behalf of the UKHSA.

### Support Available

If you choose to complete the survey independently online, we encourage you to contact us if any questions are unclear. You can request help at any time via:

- Email: [sofia.teixeira@nulondon.ac.uk](mailto:sofia.teixeira@nulondon.ac.uk) or [istvan.kiss@nulondon.ac.uk](mailto:istvan.kiss@nulondon.ac.uk)
- Phone: 07890127099 (Prof István Zoltán Kiss)

When you take the survey, you will be asked to confirm you are willing to complete the survey by clicking 'Consent and proceed'. From here the survey consists of 21 questions, primarily tick box or providing a number, across 5 sections including physical layout, staffing patterns, interaction patterns between residents and care workers. We expect it will take 15 to 20 minutes to complete. You can complete the survey in one sitting or return to it later using the same browser on the same device. You may withdraw at any time before submitting the survey. After submission, responses will be anonymised and cannot be removed. Once you have submitted your survey your participation is complete.

A £50 Amazon voucher will be offered when completed surveys are received. The voucher is a simple *thank you* for your time and is not contingent on speed of response or the content of answers.

### **What will happen to the results of the research?**

Data will be collated from all responding care homes and statistically analysed to understand how to develop and parametrise statistical and mathematical models for the modelling of infectious disease transmission in care homes. A summary report will be produced for the UKHSA, with findings helping the UKHSA plan for future outbreak control measures. This will provide UKHSA with a stronger scientific evidence base to inform its guidance on Outbreak Control Measures (OCM) across different types of care homes, where both epidemic trajectories and the unwanted impacts of OCM may differ. Results may also lead to further research, and/or further communications such as academic papers. No individual Homes or individual responses will be identifiable in any of these communications.

### **Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There are no direct benefits to you from taking part in this research. However, your participation will help improve understanding of how contagious diseases are managed in care homes, which may lead to better practices and future benefits for care homes and their residents.

### **Are there any risks involved?**

We do not believe there are any risks to being involved.

### **Will my participation be confidential?**

Yes. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to provide the name of your Home and the postcode at the start of the survey so that we know who has responded. This information will be removed once responses are downloaded and replaced with a code. The research team will keep the code key securely and separately from the survey data.

Only anonymised data will be analysed. No individual care homes or responses will be identifiable in any dataset, report, or publication.

Research data will be stored securely on university systems in line with university research governance and data protection requirements. An anonymised dataset will be shared with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) at the end of the project. UKHSA will not be told which individual care homes chose to participate and will not receive any identifying information. UKHSA will retain the anonymised data in line with its own legal and public health data retention policies.

### **What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you wish to participate in this study, please click on the survey link in the email invitation and follow the on-screen instructions.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to withdraw the data you have provided from the study. This can be done if the request is made before the data analysis begins. This will be approximately one week after the survey closes, once responses have been combined and anonymised for analysis. As the data is anonymised, it will not be possible to withdraw once this is done. Should you wish to withdraw, please contact the named representative below to discuss.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you need any further information about this study, please contact:

Name: Dr Andreia Sofia Teixeira

Associate Professor in Network Science

Principal Investigator

Address: Northeastern University London, One Portsoken, Portsoken Street, London, E1 8PH

Email: [sofia.teixeira@nulondon.ac.uk](mailto:sofia.teixeira@nulondon.ac.uk)

Name: Prof Istvan Kiss

Professor of Network Science

Co-Principal Investigator

Address: Northeastern University London, One Portsoken, Portsoken Street, London, E1 8PH

Email: [istvan.kiss@nulondon.ac.uk](mailto:istvan.kiss@nulondon.ac.uk)

**What happens if something goes wrong?**

In the unlikely case of you needing to raise a concern or complaint please contact Northeastern University London's Research Ethics Team (email: [ethics@nulondon.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@nulondon.ac.uk)).

**Thank you.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part.