



Participant Information Sheet

Study title: **Vaccination in pregnancy - ideas, experiences and attitudes, London (VIP-IDEAL)**

Dear potential participant,

We would like to invite you to take part in the above-named research study. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what is involved in participation. Please take some time to read the information below carefully and discuss with others if you wish.

What is the purpose of the study?

Our research team from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the University of London is conducting research in South London to find out what pregnant and recently pregnant women, healthcare providers and other stakeholders think about maternal vaccination (vaccines offered during pregnancy). We are particularly interested in vaccines against whooping cough, flu and Covid-19.

In some areas uptake of one or all of these vaccines has been low, and we would like to find out what the reasons are and if people have any suggestions on things that could be improved in the future. We would also like to explore if people would be interested in new vaccines that are currently under development, and what information they would need about these to be able to make a decision whether to recommend/accept them during pregnancy. We particularly want to make sure that we get the views of pregnant/postpartum women from a wide range of social and ethnic backgrounds and from their healthcare providers and other relevant stakeholders. This is to ensure that experiences and concerns from a wide range of people are understood and considered in the future. The information from this study could help researchers to think of ways to develop or improve health interventions and programmes together with different service providers and members of the public. The research may also influence future decisions regarding new vaccines that are currently being developed.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been invited, because you are either a healthcare provider (e.g., GP, nurse, midwife) who regularly provides services to pregnant or post-partum women in South London or you are another relevant stakeholder (e.g. health manager, NGO staff, local community leader) with an interest in or potential influence on services provided to pregnant women and new parents in socially and ethnically diverse areas in South London.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is entirely up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do not want to take part, that is ok. If you decide you want to take part but then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

After you have had all your questions answered and have agreed to take part, we will contact you by your preferred method (e.g., phone, email, post, or text) to arrange an interview with a member of the research team (Dr Sima Berendes or another qualified and experienced research team member).

The interview can be conducted either over the phone, via secure video conferencing (e.g. Zoom, Skype or WhatsApp video call), or in person at a mutually convenient venue (e.g. in a private room at your clinic, or another safe, quiet public place, where one cannot be easily overheard), whichever you prefer.

What will happen during the interview?

If you are meeting the researcher in person for the interview, we will ask you to sign a consent form stating that you understand what is involved in your participation and that you are willing to take part. If the interview is done via telephone or video conferencing the researcher will read the consent form to you and ask if you would like to take part. (You will also be able to read the consent form yourself beforehand, and we will give or send you a copy of the form signed by the researcher if you wish.)

With your permission, the interview will be audio-recorded. Everything you say in the interview will remain confidential, as explained in detail below. We will also take notes during the interview.

The confidential interview will last about 20 to 40 min. It will be a relaxed and informal chat about you, your attitudes towards different vaccines, your experiences with healthcare or other relevant services provided to pregnant women and possible ways to improve them in the future.

Will you compensate me for the time this takes?

We will give you £20 (either in cash or as a gift voucher) for completing the interview or focus group discussion as a thank you for helping us. If you prefer to participate in person rather than over the phone or video conferencing, we will compensate you for your travel costs if needed.

What will I have to do?

If you agree to take part you will need to provide consent and complete the interview.

What are the alternatives? You do not have to take part.

What are the disadvantages in taking part?

Completing the interview will take up some of your time.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Your interview will help us find out more about people's experiences and opinions regarding vaccinations during pregnancy, what the reasons for low vaccination uptake in South London are, and on how things could be improved in the future. It will also be an opportunity for you to talk about your experiences and views to an attentive listener. At the same time, you will be contributing to a research study.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

If you want to end the interview, tell the researcher. They will then stop the interview and you can leave at any time. You do not have to give a reason for wanting to end the interview or leave the focus group discussion.

What if there is a problem?

You can contact a member of the research team if there is a problem (Dr Sima Berendes, tel. 078 9515 3469, or email sima.berendes@lshtm.ac.uk). If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting: Patricia Henley at rgio@lshtm.ac.uk or +44 (0) 20 7927 2626, who is the head of the Research Governance and Integrity Office at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is independent of the research team.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. All information you provide in the interview will remain confidential. No one will be able to trace anything said in the interview back to you as an individual. With your permission, we will audio record the interview. The transcript from the interview will be stored anonymously, that is, your personal details won't be connected to what you say in the interview. Only the study staff and official persons who may check if our research team has followed general good research practice will be allowed to look at any information about you. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

What happens when the study stops?

After we have completed interviewing participants, we will analyse what everyone has said to help us better understand people's views, opinions and experiences and think about possible ways to improve how services are organized and provided to pregnant women, for example how they are told about and offered different types of vaccinations in the future.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results will be published in a scientific journal so that other people know about it. If you would like a copy of the results once they are available you may request a copy via email

(sima.berendes@lshtm.ac.uk). We will also include a link to the report on our study website:

www.lshtm.ac.uk/vip-ideal

Your personal information will not be included in the study report and there is no way that you can be identified from it.

Who is organising and funding this study?

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is the sponsor for the research and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as the Data Controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The study is funded by the Wellcome Trust (a charitable foundation with focus on health research) through an LSHTM Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) Pump Priming Grant (Wellcome ISSF grant reference: 204928/Z/16/Z).

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

- At <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/files/research-participant-privacy-notice.pdf>
- at www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch
- at <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/>
- by asking one of the research team members
- by ringing the LSTHM Data Protection Office, Tel: +44 (0)20 7927 2708
- by sending an email to DPO@lshtm.ac.uk

Who has reviewed this study?

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Research Ethics Committee. The NHS London - South East Research Ethics Committee has also reviewed the study and have agreed that it is okay for us to ask people to take part.

Further information

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you think you will take part in the study we will ask you to read the consent form. Prior to participating in the interview you will either need to sign

the consent form or (if the interview is conducted remotely) or the consent statements will be read to you by the researcher and you will need to agree to them prior to the interview.

If anything you have read is not clear or you would like further information, please contact Dr Sima Berendes (Tel 078 9515 3469 or email sima.berendes@lshtm.ac.uk) or any other study team member (see contact info below) who can answer any questions you may have about the study.

Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part.

If you would like further information please contact the VIP-IDEAL Research Team

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If you would like to take part, please contact Dr Sima Berendes

via text/ WhatsApp/ phone (Tel 078 9515 3469) or email (sima.berendes@lshtm.ac.uk)