

## **Survey of the health effects and recovery from COVID-19**

### **Frequently asked questions**

Thank you for your interest in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) survey of the health effects and recovery from COVID-19. Below is a list of frequently asked questions that might help address concerns or questions you have about the survey.

**1. What will this survey be used for?**

COVID-19 is caused by a novel (“new”) virus that scientists discovered in 2019. The health effects of COVID-19, especially the long-term health effects, are poorly understood. Maine CDC is working in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC) to better understand the recovery from COVID-19 as well as the symptoms that may persist for days, weeks, or months after infection. This information is urgently needed to improve how doctors treat patients with COVID-19.

**2. Is there any incentive or reward for completing the survey?**

Right now, there is no reimbursement or reward for completing the survey. By taking the survey, however, you will be helping public health officials better understand the effects of COVID-19, potentially improving the way that doctors can deliver care to Mainers diagnosed with COVID-19.

**3. Is the survey completely anonymous? Is my personal information safe?**

Yes, the survey is completely anonymous. Your survey information is linked to a random number that is connected to your date of diagnosis with COVID-19. This information can not be used to identify you. Maine CDC will be combining your responses with the responses of everyone else who takes the survey to get a “big picture” view of the responses. The initials and the date of birth you provide will help us to distinguish one respondent from another and will not be shared with anyone.

**4. Do I need to answer all questions?**

You do not need to respond to all questions. However, we will be able to understand recovery from COVID-19 much better if the survey responses are complete.

**5. How did Maine CDC get my information?**

Maine CDC obtained your phone number and date of positive test from the information that you provided either at the time that you were tested for COVID-19, or when you were interviewed by a member of the health department.

**6. Can I share my survey link with others?**

Please do not share your survey link with anyone else. If you know someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and wants to participate in this survey, please ask them to send an email to **MECDC.LongCOVID@maine.gov**

**7. My sibling/partner/parent also was diagnosed with COVID-19. Why didn't they receive the survey?**

If an individual was diagnosed with COVID-19 in 2020 but did not receive the survey, it is likely that they did not provide a phone number at the time of testing or interview with public health officials, or the phone number was entered incorrectly. If you know someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and wants to participate in this survey, please ask them to send an email to [MECDC.LongCOVID@maine.gov](mailto:MECDC.LongCOVID@maine.gov)

**8. Will I be able to take the survey after the deadline on May 15, 2021?**

Unfortunately, the survey will only be available for a limited time. We appreciate your interest in contributing to our understanding of COVID-19 but for your results to be recorded, we ask that you take the survey during the designated time. After May 15, the survey link will no longer function.