

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is leading this study?

CalScope is a study run by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) together with Stanford University and seven local county health departments (in Alameda, El Dorado, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Diego, and Shasta counties).



What is the goal of this study?

The goal of this study is to learn more about how many Californians have antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19. Information collected from this study will help CDPH and local public health departments continue work to prevent and stop the spread of the virus. Information from this study will be used only by the CalScope study team, and none of the data contain personal information that can identify you.

Why should I participate?

Your participation in this study helps local health programs get a better idea of how many people in California have had COVID-19, have been vaccinated, or may still be at risk for infection. We want to make sure we have a diverse group of Californians represented in our data.

Is participation in this study confidential?

YES. The survey will not ask for your personal information or citizenship status. All survey and blood test results are collected anonymously (meaning we do not ask for your name) in order to protect your identity. If you would like study updates, we will ask you to provide your phone number and email, but you don't have to share this information if you don't want to. As soon as your participation is completed or if you withdraw from the study, any contact information that you shared with us will be erased.

What will you do with participant information?

Any information that you share with us is stored on a secure server and is password protected. All the researchers that are part of this study must receive training and certifications to make sure they know how to properly handle data and protect the privacy of all participants. Any survey responses or test results will NOT be shared with other groups that are not involved in this study.

Information from this project will be analyzed and reported as a group for overall trends. This means that there is no way that someone will be able to find or see your specific survey or test results. Since all survey responses and test results are collected anonymously (without names), they cannot and will not be shared with any other governmental program.

Do I need to speak English or be a US citizen to join the study?

NO. All study materials and surveys will be available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and simplified Chinese. Our study does NOT ask about citizenship status.

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Do I need a computer with internet access to participate?

NO. You can sign up using your smartphone or mobile phone with a data plan that allows you to access the internet. If you don't have access to the internet, you can register and take the survey by phone at 1-833-580-1333.

Can I join the study if I have been vaccinated?

YES. You can join the study regardless of previous COVID-19 infection or vaccination status. It is important to have a diverse group of participants, whether or not you have been vaccinated.

Can I participate again if I have joined the study before?

YES. If you already completed this study in spring 2021, and your household received a second invitation, you can choose to participate again. Up to 1 adult and 1 child per household can join the study.

Can more than one adult participate per household?

NO. Only 1 adult (ages 18+) and 1 child (ages 1 to 17) can join the study per household.

Do I have to complete both the survey and the blood sample to be part of the study?

NO. Although we'd like to collect both the survey and a blood sample from all participants, we understand that it may not be possible for everyone. You can choose to only complete the survey and not complete the blood/sample test kit.

Will I receive my blood test results?

YES. If you submit a finger-prick blood sample using the home test kit, you will receive your test results by mail in 4-6 weeks. Your test results will tell you if you have SARS-CoV-2 antibodies or not.

Will the antibody test tell me if I am currently infected?

NO. The free antibody test will not be able to tell if you are currently infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 (called SARS-CoV-2).

Will I receive any payment for taking part in the study?

YES. To thank you for your time, you will receive a \$20 gift card for finishing the survey and a \$20 gift card for returning a completed test kit. You can get up to \$40 for one adult and \$40 for one child in your household.



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