What is CalScope?

CalScope is a population-based serosurvey that will help the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) learn how many Californians have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This study will also help CDPH learn how population immunity to the COVID-19 virus may change over time. The overall goal of this study is to understand how many Californians have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 or received the COVID-19 vaccine and how this varies across population subgroups (i.e., by region, age, race, and ethnicity, etc.).

This study is intended to complement the current efforts of local health programs. Information from this study can help local health programs in their current efforts to promote vaccination and stop the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Why is this study important?

Data from antibody studies like CalScope complement state data on COVID-19 to help public health leaders understand how the virus has spread throughout the state and which communities remain at-risk for COVID-19 in California. Understanding how COVID-19 antibodies may differ across groups can also help us identify which populations could benefit from additional resources. Read more about California’s commitment to health equity.

Who is involved?

To lead the CalScope study in California, CDPH has partnered with Stanford University School of Medicine and seven local health departments in Alameda, El Dorado, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Diego, and Shasta counties. Households in these counties are being randomly selected and invited to participate in CalScope.

For more information, email CalScope@cdph.ca.gov.
How does CalScope work?

Up to one adult and/or one child from each household will be invited to self-collect a blood sample at home and complete an anonymous survey about household and individual demographics, behaviors, and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants are eligible to receive a $20 gift card for each completed blood sample test and a $20 gift card for each completed survey.

Participation in this study is free and confidential. This study will not ask about citizenship status. Individual information cannot be shared with any other governmental program. Participants will not be asked to provide personal information, such as name or date of birth, and any information collected will be used for the purposes of this study only. If participants in your communities have questions about taking part in CalScope, you can share the CalScope FAQs with them to help answer common questions.

How will this study help my community?

CalScope aims to meet people where they are: at home. This study collects anonymous information from participants even if they cannot access a healthcare facility. The study collects information about infections that would otherwise be missed.

We understand that representation matters. Higher enrollment across different groups in your community will help us gather more accurate data that represent the diverse population of your county.

Results from this study can help community organizations like yours.

- Estimate how many people in the community have COVID-19 antibodies (from vaccination or from a previous infection).
- Identify areas or populations with high amounts of undiagnosed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Identify subgroups that might need additional resources.