



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (V3.11.05.20)

### THE FRONTLINE:

#### **An Archive of Lived Experiences From Key Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

We would like to invite you to take part in our project. We want to co-create an on going archive of lived experiences from frontline key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

#### **What is the purpose of this project?**

Key workers (including health care practitioners, newly qualified nurses, retirees, ex-service personal, military reservists) are working through the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. As Covid-19 wreaks havoc across the globe, Britain's frontline workers have been battling more than the virus. Many have come forward to work outside their normal working environment in the NHS, as volunteers or on mobilisation to support key services. At times and in different circumstances they have been dealing with a lack of resources in the midst of a panic -heightening media landscape.

As they put themselves at risk for the public, they have been praised but may have also been criticised. Pleas to remain home and other stories filter through social media sites such as twitter. Many of their stories may be lost in the midst of the current turmoil. The public receive news normally filtered through panic driven headlines without really knowing what the real stories are from those working on the frontline. These stories from the frontline either through, Vlogs (videos filmed on phones), letters, podcasts or other means can and will be vital testimonies of this period of our history.

*The Frontline* project serves as a vehicle to give a voice to key workers during and after the pandemic. By utilising personal mobile devices, social media platforms, the power of hashtags, letters, cards and online communication tools, this project is designed to empower key workers to share their own unique perspectives. We want these consolidated stories to serve as historical records, preserve memories, and inform the public and future policy makers of the emotional and challenging resilience of those working on the frontline during the pandemic.

#### **The Researchers**

The Frontline project is designed by StoryLab, a research institute based at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. We are dedicated to increasing accessibility and transparency in storytelling and to demonstrating its transformational potential.

#### **Why have you been invited to participate?**

We are inviting you to participate because you have a key worker role during the pandemic crisis.

#### **Do you have to take part?**

No, it is completely up to you if you wish to take part. If you decide that you do not want to take part, you do not have to give a reason. If you decide to take part then we will ask you provide consent either

through a signed consent form or acknowledging consent using the check boxes on the website's digital consent form. We will give you a copy of this form to keep.

### **Ethical Approval**

This project has received ethical approval from an ethics committee at Anglia Ruskin University.

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

The Frontline project will be hosted on StoryLab's research platform (storylabresearch.com). The testimonials in various formats (video, images, audio, twitter posts, letters, etc) will be hosted on a dedicated project page and visible to the public. The testimonials will inform research publications, presentations and potentially form the basis of a longer audio-visual documentary. These testimonials will inform papers, publications and the results presented at conferences and relevant events. They may also potentially form the basis of a longer audio-visual documentary reflecting on the Covid-19 period. This documentary may be screened nationally or internationally. An additional option is provided on the consent form to use testimonials for promoting and informing public audiences of the project through press outlets such as external articles and newsletters, radio, television and online news segments. None of the participants will be identified by name in any reporting of the findings or press releases. **Our general privacy notice explaining our use of your personal data for research purposes is available here: <https://www.anglia.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookies/research-participants>.** Please visit this link for information about how long we keep your data, how we keep your data secure, how you can exercise your rights over your data, and make a complaint over our use of your data. Serving military and other specific individuals may require their chain of command or media officer be informed before taking part.

## **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH PROJECT**

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to submit reflections of your lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. These reflections may take the form of a 30-60 second Vlog (something recorded on your mobile phone for example, audiovisual), a podcast (just audio), writings on your reflections, poems, letters etc. The form you feel you would prefer to communicate in. We want to hear your thoughts and stories in real time. You can send these as often as you feel you would like and are able to (twice daily, daily, weekly etc). We will curate these stories to reflect the overall aim of the project. We are aware that you are operating at the frontline and need to focus on other priorities. We will provide you with details as to who and how you send in these reflections. If we make a longer documentary with the project, we will invite you to view the film and feedback your thoughts.

### **Data**

We will be asking you for the following personal data: your name; your email; your job title; your status as a key worker; your geographical location (e.g. East of England, London); and your personal reflections during the pandemic. Your name, email, and worker status will be anonymised in data collection and not released publicly. We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information in confidence. If you participate in the project, some parts of your data may be looked at to check the project is being carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant and we will do our best to meet this duty.

Any personal data which is not published on our research platform during the course of the research will be kept **strictly confidential** stored in a secure and locked office, and on a password protected database. Any information about you will be anonymised as far as possible using a non-recognisable unique code.

Your personal data (address, telephone number) will be kept for up to 24 months after the end of the project so that we are able to contact you about the findings of the project and possible *follow up studies* (unless you advise us that you do not wish to be contacted). You can ask us to remove this personal information later if you change your mind.

The research data recorded on audio and video will be removed and stored securely on a central computer at Anglia Ruskin University. Access to this data will be restricted to the study team. After the study ends this data will be archived at Anglia Ruskin University and retained for 7 years in accordance with the university policy, after which it will be destroyed. During this time all precautions will be taken by all those involved to maintain your confidentiality, only members of the research team will have access to your personal data.

### **Expenses and payments**

You will not be paid to participate in this project. We will reimburse any pre-agreed expenses incurred as a direct result of taking part in this project.

### **What are the possible advantages and disadvantages to taking part?**

We hope that the project will be valuable and important for you. We hope that recording and communicating your experiences during this time will be beneficial for you as a permanent historical legacy and provide an archive of memories that can be shared by you, colleagues, policy makers and the public. There may also personally be a cathartic benefit to the process of recording your experiences. Your reflections will be hosted on the StoryLab research platform and visible to the public. We want to minimise the risk of potentially harmful on-line discussions or responses to your reflections by eliminating the 'conversation' thread online. So your testimonies stand independently of these conversations. We will also do our best to anonymise as much information about you as possible but we need to make you aware that you may be recognised.

### **Health and Safety**

You may be recording testimonies on and through various devices such as a smart phone or audio recording device. Please do so in compliance with Public Health England and Government advice during the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes using anti-bacterial wipes before and after using the device, washing hands and implementing the regulatory social distancing where possible. **Please do not endanger yourself or place yourself in a vulnerable position in order to document your stories.**

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please speak to Marques Hardin (Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, StoryLab) or Dr Shreepali Patel (Director, StoryLab). We will do our best to answer your questions (contact details are given out at the end of this information sheet).

### **What will happen if you do not want to carry on with the project?**

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason, and without your legal rights being affected. If you withdraw, then the information

collected up until that time cannot be erased but you can request for it to be excluded from the study. After the study has finished it will not be possible to exclude data from the analysis process.

If you have any questions about this study then please do contact us directly at:  
[StoryLab@aru.ac.uk](mailto:StoryLab@aru.ac.uk) or [Shreepali.patel@aru.ac.uk](mailto:Shreepali.patel@aru.ac.uk) or [Marques.Hardin@aru.ac.uk](mailto:Marques.Hardin@aru.ac.uk)

Many thanks once again for taking part in this study.

StoryLab Research Team

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