

Should I join a Covid-19 research study?

Joining a research study is your choice. Be informed. Ask questions. Get answers.

Covid-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus. Right now, medical care for people with Covid-19 includes mainly helping to relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment includes care to support vital organ function.

Physicians and scientists have many questions about Covid-19:

- How does Covid-19 affect people?
- What drugs or other treatments might prevent, diagnose, or treat Covid-19?
- What kind of vaccine might work against Covid-19?

Only research studies will help answer these questions.

Being in a research study is not the same as getting regular medical care. Instead, the researchers are trying to answer a question. In many studies, some people serve as a comparison group and others get the active research drug, treatment, or vaccine.

Questions to ask if you are invited to be in a Covid-19 research study:

- What question is the study trying to answer?
- Why am I being asked to be included in the study?
- What factors might keep me from being in the study?
- What will be different about my care if I'm in the study?
- Is there a chance that I won't get the active research drug, treatment, or vaccine?
- What are the risks and benefits for me being in the study?
- What are the long-term effects of being in the study?
- What long-term care will I need if I am in the study?
- How will my safety and privacy be protected?
- Will being in the study cost me anything?
- How long will the study last?
- What happens if I decide to stop being in the study?
- Can I get the research drug, treatment, or vaccine if I'm not in the study?
- If I'm in this study, can I also be in other research studies?
- Who should I ask if I have questions about the study?

Participating in research is a choice.

Being in a research study is an important personal decision. You can talk it over with your family, friends, doctors, and nurses. Before you decide, the researchers should answer all your questions. You should never feel rushed or pressured to make a decision. Being part of a research study is completely up to you. You can change your mind at any time, for any reason, even after you agree to be in the study.