



School of Population Health
Grafton Campus, University of Auckland
Level 3, Building 507,
22-30 Park Ave,
Grafton,
Auckland, 1023
New Zealand

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

(Participants)

Project Title: COVID-19 vaccine beliefs for evangelical Christians in Aotearoa, New Zealand

Name of Principal Investigator/Supervisor (PI): Dr Samantha March, Senior Research Fellow, University of Auckland, *email: sam.marsh@auckland.ac.nz*

Name of Co-investigator(s): Dr Fiona Langridge, Research Fellow, University of Auckland *email: f.langridge@auckland.ac.nz*, Dr Malakai 'Ofanoa, Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, *email: m.ofanoa@auckland.ac.nz*

Name of Student Researcher(s): Laura Pope, University of Auckland Public Health Masters Student, *email: lpop686@aucklanduni.ac.nz*

Researcher introduction:

My name is Laura Pope, and I am a current student at the University of Auckland. I am studying a master's in public health and this project will contribute to my grade. My interest in this project is a result of my strong connection to church and my passion for public health. Together I hope to bring a strengths-based approach to the research project.

Project description and invitation:

The study will investigate perspectives around the COVID vaccine among evangelical church members. We hope to understand why Christians choose to be vaccinated or not vaccinated against COVID-19. Before the COVID vaccine rollout in New Zealand we have had a number of large church leaders voice their views on the vaccine. We want to see whether these views and values are shared with other evangelical Christians and if so, why.

What does the study involve?

- You are invited to take part in this study to explore your ideas, beliefs and views surrounding the COVID vaccine in New Zealand. We ask that you complete an interview, which will be conducted online via zoom.
- The interview will consist of a number of questions where you will be able to share as little or as much as you would like.
- A member of the research team will conduct the interview, where you will be asked questions about your faith, and spirituality as well as your views surrounding COVID and the vaccine.
- Findings from the study will help us to understand evangelical Christians views and behaviours around the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Your participation in this study is voluntary (it is your choice). You do not have to take part. You are free to withdraw your participation any time prior to the interview and up to one week after the interview. No reason is necessary to withdraw. If you do not wish to partake in the study or if you change your mind later, you will not be disadvantaged in any way. If you have any questions during the study process we encourage you to ask.
- You have been selected because you are a Christian who identifies as evangelical or attends an evangelic church.
- Screening:
 - Screening will be completed prior to participation in the research project.
 - First you are given both the participation information sheet and the consent form which you can download if you would like (this is available on the Facebook account). After you have signed the consent form you will be asked a series of short questions. These will ask demographic questions such as age and ethnicity and questions to see if you are eligible to be a participant.
 - This information will not be kept if you do not go on to be a participant.
- The interview will take approximately 1 hour.
- Only members of the research team will have access to your information.
- Recordings:
 - The interview will be audio-recorded and transcribed by the student researcher. All recordings will be processed to remove any identifiable

information about you. If you choose to be recorded, at any time without reason, you may ask for the recording to be turned off.

- You will be able to review and edit the transcripts of the interview, if you wish to do so. You will be able to do this within two-weeks of receiving the transcript. This can be requested and sent via email.
- The data will be coded once it is collected to help provide anonymity this will be done by:

Each participant that signs up to the study will be given a number. This number will link personal information such as name, age, contact information, the PIS and CF. When the interview takes place the participant will be assigned a letter. This letter will then be linked to a number on a coding sheet. The coding sheet will be kept separately from the other data, but will also enable participant information and participants interviews to be linked. The research team will be able to access the codes, and they will be kept on a secured password protected server. This will be a University of Auckland server. Transcribing and coding will be done by the student researcher.

Benefits and risks

- We do not anticipate that there are any risks associated with this study. However, if at any time you experience any difficulties or stress, you are encouraged to contact one of the research team members or your church leader.
- Taking part will require some time. You will be required to partake in an interview that will take approximately 1 hour.

Who pays for the study?

- Taking part in the study will be of no cost to you.

Rights of the participant(s)

Participation is voluntary:

- Participation is voluntary, if you choose not to participate you will not be disadvantaged in any way.

Withdrawal from participation and withdrawal of data:

- You are able to withdrawal from participation at any time without any disadvantage.
- You are able to withdrawal your interview data up to two weeks after the interview takes place.

Confidentiality and anonymity:

- While it is unlikely for you to be identified, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.
- Because a researcher will be discussing your views and beliefs, you will not be an anonymous participant.
- The study results will be submitted to the University of Auckland for a master's thesis and there is potential for the study to be published. The study may also be presented in a conference setting. Sharing the results from the study will be done in a way that does not identify you as the source.
- The study files, including transcripts of the interviews and the audio files will be strictly confidential. No material that could identify you will be used in the study.
- We will need to collect personal information such as your name and email address, to enable communication throughout the interview process. This information will be stored separately from any personal data we collect i.e. ethnicity and age.

What will happen after the study?

- All electronic data will be stored at the University of Auckland server.
- All computer records will be password protected.
- All future use of the information will be strictly controlled in accordance with the Privacy Act, 2020.
- If you wish, a summary of the findings will be emailed to you at the end of the study, once it has been analysed.
- We expect that a summary of the data will be ready by end of November 2022.
- The results of the study may be used in publication.

Contact Details, additional Māori support:

- If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the study at any stage you can contact:

Laura Pope, Masters in Public Health Student, University of Auckland

Email : lpope686@aucklanduni.ac.nz

- Or you can contact the Head of Department & Head of Academic Unit:

Professor Chris Bullen

Telephone (09) 373-7999 x 84730. Email: c.bullen@auckland.ac.nz

If you require Māori cultural support, talk to your whānau in the first instance. You may also contact the administrator for He Kamaka Waiora (Māori Health Team) by telephoning 09 486 8324 ext 2324, or contact the Māori Research Advisor by phoning 09 4868920 ext 3204 to discuss any questions or complaints about the study.

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at ahrec@auckland.ac.nz or at 373 7599 x 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 20/05/2022 for three years. Reference number UAHPEC24085.