

## Participant Information Sheet

**Project title: What does vaccination mean to people aged 55+?**

**We would like to invite you to take part in our research project. This information sheet explains why the study is being done and what taking part would involve.**

**Before you decide whether or not to participate, please take time to read this information sheet and consider if you have any questions you would like to discuss with us. You can talk to others about the study if you wish.**

**Please contact us on the details below if anything is unclear.**

### **What is the study about?**

We want to understand why people aged 55 and over choose to be vaccinated or not in the UK. We are specifically interested in the vaccines currently offered by the NHS to people aged 65 and older: influenza (flu) vaccines, pneumococcal vaccine, shingles vaccine and now also the COVID-19 vaccine.

The purpose of the project is to understand how the current vaccination programme can better meet the needs of everyone.

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

We have invited you to participate as we are interested in hearing from adults aged 55 and over, from a diverse range of backgrounds living across different parts of the UK. We expect 80-105 people to take part in this research in total. We have invited people from nine different areas in England, and two areas in each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to take part.

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

It is voluntary to take part in this project. You can express your interest in the study by completing a short questionnaire. We will then contact you so you can ask us further questions. If you decide to take part, we will ask you to complete a form confirming your consent. You are free to change your mind at any time and withdraw from the project without giving a reason.

If you wish to participate, you can withdraw from the study until the analysis is completed in August 2022. If you wish to withdraw after you have taken part in an online focus group, any comments you have made will not be quoted as part of the study. The data will still form part of the broader analysis. All online focus group data will be anonymised before it is analysed. If you do decide to withdraw from the research project, we may keep information that does not identify you (such as your

gender and age). This information would only be used so we understand if those individuals who left the research were different from those who stayed.

### **What does taking part in the study involve?**

If you decide to take part and complete the questionnaire, a member of the research team will contact you via email or by phone based on your preference. We will provide you with further information and an opportunity to discuss the research. If you are happy to go ahead we will ask you to complete a consent form securely online. You will then be invited to take part in an online focus group via a Zoom video meeting at a time suitable to you. For further information on using Zoom please click [here](#). The online focus group will last up to 90 minutes and will be recorded. We will offer you a £20 high street voucher per hour as compensation for your time. If you choose to or have to leave the group early, you will be compensated for the time you attended (rounded up to the nearest half hour, so payment will be in blocks of £10).

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks involved in taking part in the project?**

There are no particularly prominent risks involved in taking part. However, taking part in an online focus group and using a device such as a computer may cause eye strain. The topic of discussion may make you feel uncomfortable if you find vaccination in general is a sensitive topic.

### **What will I gain from taking part?**

Taking part will allow you to share your experiences and opinions about vaccination. You will have an opportunity to have your say about how and why older adults are vaccinated in the UK.

### **Will my participation in this project be kept confidential?**

Yes, all information about you will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with the GDPR and 2018 Data Protection Act. Data will be stored on password protected computers that only the research team can access. The recordings of online focus groups will be password protected and stored securely, only accessible to the research team. The recordings will be typed up into a written format at which point all information will be anonymised. The recordings will be destroyed once the transcriptions have been made and verified.

Any reports and publications we write about the research will be completed based on anonymised data which cannot be linked to you. The written materials that discuss the results of the research may include quotes from the online focus groups, but these will be anonymous, and it will not be possible to link them back to you. The anonymised data will be kept for 10 years by University of Bristol Research Data Repository.

### **What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The results of this study will be shared via scientific journals and conferences, and with policy makers. We will ask if you would like to stay informed about the results of the research so that we can share a summary of the results with you via email. Further information about the study will also be made available via the project [website](#) . All details about participants will be anonymised in all materials.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is being organised and run by a team of researchers at Bristol Medical School, Population Health Sciences. The study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) as part of a portfolio of five projects which are carried out under a research fellowship funded by the NIHR.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

The University of Bristol Research Ethics Committee – a group of people independent from this research – has reviewed this project. The Ethics committee (Ref 118051) has given a favourable opinion that we are ensuring your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity throughout the duration of this research.

### **What happens next?**

Please take your time to decide whether you would like to take part in an online focus group.

If anything is unclear, you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the research team via email [grp-vaccinesinolderadults@groups.bristol.ac.uk](mailto:grp-vaccinesinolderadults@groups.bristol.ac.uk) or by phone 0117 455 7657.

If you have any concerns relating to your participation in this study, please contact the Faculty of Health Science Research Ethics Committee, via the Research Governance Team, [research-governance@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk)

**Once you have made your decision, if you would like to take part in the research please complete the [expression of interest questionnaire](#) and we will be in touch to discuss the study further.**

***Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet***