PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Examining the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of parents/guardians towards the 2014 NSW Measles High-school Catch-up Program

Research Team
Sonya Nicholl  Health Protection NSW
Dr Stephen Conaty  South Western Sydney Local Health District
Ms Deb Thomson  South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
Ms Natasa Veselinovic Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
Dr Holly Seale University of New South Wales

Invitation
You are invited to take part in a research project which aims to improve our understanding of the attitudes of parents/guardians towards school based vaccination programs in NSW. This study involves completing a 10-15 minute online survey which is completely anonymous. We are very interested to find out your thoughts on immunisation services in the school program.

1. **What is the purpose of this study?**
Researchers from NSW Health and the University of New South Wales are conducting a new study to understand what parents/guardians think of immunisation and the NSW school vaccination program, with a focus on the 2014 NSW Measles High-school Catch-up Program. The information will be used to identify strategies and also find out important information to help improve parent consent rates in the school program. We are interested in your views on these topics.

2. **Why am I being invited to participate?**
We are inviting all parents/guardians whose children attend a high school which is involved with the 2014 NSW Measles High-school Catch-up Program.

3. **What does the study involve?**
If you agree to participate, we would like you to complete one short 10-15 minute online survey. The survey will not collect any of your personal information, nor will your child or child’s school be identified in any way.

If you are happy to participate, please click the link to the survey. Further instructions will be provided.

4. **What if I don’t want to take part in study?**
Your participation is completely voluntary and it’s up to you whether you click on the link at the end of this information which will take you to the survey. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice. Should you change your mind after you have submitted the survey, it will not be possible to remove your responses from the grouped responses. If you revoke consent prior to completing the questionnaire your results will not be included.

5. **Are there any risks to me taking part in this study?**
We do not anticipate any risks or discomfort to you from being in this study. There may be no direct benefit to you by participating in this study. Participation in this study is completely voluntary.
6. Will I benefit from the study?
You may not benefit personally, however we hope that the information we gain from the study will help improve the experience of other parents/guardians and students involved in the routine school vaccination program in NSW.

7. Will there be any cost to me?
No, participation will not cost you anything.

8. How will my confidentiality be protected?
We will not collect any personal details about you, your child or your child's school. All of the responses will be grouped and findings reported on together. Your responses will be entered in the online survey and once the responses are completed, they will be extracted to a spreadsheet where all other responses will be stored together. Only the research team will have access to the grouped responses which will be stored on a secure NSW Health electronic system and password protected.

9. What happens with the results?
The results from this study will be published in a medical journal and may be presented at national or international conferences.

10. Who should I contact if I want to discuss the study further?
You have the right to ask and receive responses on any questions you may have about this research. If you would like further information, or you have concerns about the conduct of the study, please phone and discuss them with:

Ms Sonya Nicholl
Chief investigator
(02) 9391 9194 or sonya.nicholl@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

If you have a complaint, please contact:
The Ethics Secretariat,
The University of New South Wales,
SYDNEY 2052 AUSTRALIA
Phone 02 9385 4234 fax 02 9385 6648 email ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au

Any complaint you make will be investigated promptly and you will be informed out the outcome.

If you would like to participate, please visit the following link which will take you to the survey:


Many thanks for taking the time to read this information