

Seattle Flu Household Study FAQ

What is the Seattle Flu Household Study?

We are a research study team looking to see how Covid-19, flu, and other germs spread within households and our greater community. This study will help us better understand how to prevent the spread of these viruses.

Who can sign up for this study?

Households made up of 3 or more people, with at least 1 child living in the house, may be eligible to participate. The 2020-2021 study begins October 1, 2020.

What does my household need to do if we sign up?

Participating in this study involves filling out weekly questionnaires about cold- or flu-like symptoms you or your family members are experiencing. If someone in the house feels sick, you'll send us swabs from your nose in the mail.

How do I get my results?

In the case of a positive SARS-CoV-2 test (virus causing COVID-19), you will be contacted via phone by a member of our research team. You will not receive results for negative SARS-CoV-2 tests or inconclusive results.

How long will it take to get my results?

Processing time fluctuates depending on our current lab capacity. On average, once your sample arrives at our lab, it takes 2–3 days to process. In the case of a positive test, we will reach out to you as soon as we can with those results.

What should I do if I test positive for coronavirus?

If your sample tests positive for coronavirus, you will be notified by a member of the SFS research team. They will connect you with information and resources to help you recover and protect your friends, family, and community. However, participation is not a replacement for medical care. Those who do not feel well or suspect they might have COVID-19 should stay home, contact their healthcare provider, and follow public health guidance.

If I believe I have been exposed to coronavirus, what should I do?

If you believe that you have been exposed to coronavirus, please stay home, contact your healthcare provider, and follow public health guidance. (link to CDC or king county)

What kind of testing does the Seattle Flu Study do?

We use at-home nasal swabs to test for presence of Influenza, SARS-COV-2 virus during active infection, in an effort to provide a near-real time snapshot of the virus in our community. We do not do any serological sampling for previous infections (antibody testing) at this time.

Who will have access to my information?

Your privacy is extremely important to us! Only the research team will have access to the information that you provide. No data directly linked to you will ever be made publicly available. To protect access to your results, you will be given a personal barcode.

All study information will be stored in a secure, confidential manner. We will also store aggregated information separately from your personal information in order to understand trends in how coronavirus is spreading.

Washington State law also requires that we report certain conditions (including COVID-19) to local health jurisdictions and the Department of Health. If your sample tests positive for one of these conditions, these organizations may contact you to ask you additional questions. They will keep your information private.