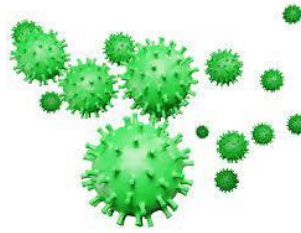


# SIREN

SARS-CoV2 Immunity & Reinfection Evaluation



## **INCREDIBLE STAFF....MAKING AN INCREDIBLE DIFFERENCE!**

The SIREN study was launched at BHSCT in December 2021. SIREN is a major tool in the national effort to develop the science that helps decision-makers control the disease. The aim of this study in healthcare workers across the UK is to determine if prior SARS-CoV2 infection confers immunity to future re-infection, and also, importantly, examines the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against existing and future new variants. SIREN has become one of the world's largest studies looking at COVID-19 reinfection amongst healthcare workers, and we are very proud to be part of it.

Within the Trust, the SIREN study team was delighted to recruit an incredible 254 staff over the course of 3 months, up to March 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. (Recruitment is now closed.)

A massive THANK YOU to all the amazing BHSCT staff who are enrolled in the study. There are participants from every single staff group and discipline. Through everyone's contribution SIREN continues to provide critical data to inform the UK's public health response to COVID-19. For example, in April 2021, SIREN published 2 papers in the Lancet showing that:

- previous infection with SARS-CoV-2 reduces risk of future infections by 84% at least up to the current median 7 months of follow-up;
- a single dose of vaccine showed effectiveness of 70% 21 days after first dose and 85% 7 days after two doses, and can prevent both symptomatic and asymptomatic infection by the Kent variant, the dominant variant in circulation at the time.

By demonstrating an evidence basis for the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, the SIREN study has offered up a big answer to the question of whether the vaccination programme will help end lockdown restrictions: the answer is – in parallel with other measures, including maintaining hand hygiene, using face coverings and observing social distancing – a cautious, careful, but optimistic 'YES!'.

The value of each sample that you provide and every questionnaire that you complete cannot be underestimated, as it is only through your participation that we are able to learn so much. Thank you all for your ongoing support, which plays such a vital contribution to worldwide learning.

A great big THANK YOU also to all those who have facilitated the SIREN study. Thank you to the NI Clinical Research Network (NICRN), to the Appointments Office Team, the Regional Virology Lab staff, Admin Support staff, the Covid-19 Testing & Vaccination Centre Staff, PCSS Staff and the Occupational Health Team.

Keep up the good work – the SIREN study continues over the course of the next year and it is so vital that we all keep attending our appointments. THANK YOU ALL!



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