

## Update on COVID-19 research in Suffolk – 21/01/2021

### **COVID-19 Research results:**

**SIREN study** - the first report from this vital study to monitor post-COVID-infection immunity **highlights that past COVID-19 infection provides some immunity for at least 5 months, but people may still carry and transmit the virus.** Between June and November, researchers detected 44 potential reinfections out of 6,614 participants (healthcare workers across 102 NHS Trusts) who had tested positive for antibodies. This represents an 83% rate of protection from reinfection. PHE cautions that although those with antibodies have some protection from becoming ill with COVID-19 themselves, early evidence from the next stage of the study suggests that some of these individuals carry high levels of virus and could continue to transmit the virus to others. Read [the press release from PHE here](#).

Results from [the REMAP-CAP clinical trial](#) show the drugs tocilizumab and sarilumab reduced [the risk of death](#) by 24% for clinically ill patients and time spent in intensive care by up to 10 days. Updated guidance has been issued by the government and the NHS to trusts across the UK, encouraging them to use tocilizumab in treatment of COVID-19 patients who are admitted to intensive care units. Read [the press release from the DHSC here](#).

### **Key Updates - ongoing and new studies:**

**PRINCIPLE** One of the key priority [Urgent Public Health](#) studies to test different medications to see whether this reduces the need for hospitalisation or will speed up recovery in older patients.

[The Azithromycin and Doxycycline arms](#) of the study are now discontinued. Standard care and treatment with the inhaled corticosteroid Budesonide are the 2 arms of the study currently.

As cases of COVID-19 in the region rise, the research team urges [teams](#) to continue to promote the study and consider re-sending text messages out to potentially eligible participants. Adverts have also recently been placed in local press to try to raise the profile of the study in the region, and poster are up at local testing sites.

Anyone experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms, which started within the last 14 days** may be eligible to join the PRINCIPLE trial if they are aged **over 65; or over 50 with an underlying health condition**.

**RECAP (REmote Covid Assessment in Primary Care)** – a study aiming to developing a tool to assist primary care providers in the identification of those COVID-19 patients at risk of becoming severe, in order to facilitate the rapid escalation of their treatment and increase the chances of better outcomes. A number of GP practices in Eastern region have been accepted onto the study. The study is still open for expression of interest from more practices.

**NHS Check** aims to establish a cohort of NHS-affiliated staff to investigate the short, medium and longer term psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on staff performance and wellbeing. The study is recruiting across 5 Eastern Trusts, including East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust Staff based at those sites can join the NHS Check study at <https://nhscheck.org/> to complete a short 5 minute survey (and enter a free prize draw to win a coffee machine for [their team!](#))

**What's the STORY?** The Oxford Vaccine Group study is investigating the serological profile of children and young adults to assess how well the population is protected from vaccine preventable disease. This study will involve blood sampling from people aged from birth to 24 years of age to look at their antibody levels against important infectious diseases (with particular interest in Group C meningococcus (MenC), diphtheria and COVID-19. This will

help [researchers](#) understand whether any changes might be needed to the UK vaccine schedule, and give additional data on COVID-19 infections in the UK. The study opened at West Suffolk Hospital - recruitment will begin following a central study invitation mail out.

**Other news of interest:**

[Read how the asymptomatic screening programme](#) and the collaboration with researchers at the [COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium \(COG-UK\)](#) helped Cambridge University understand and limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2 among its students.

[Read about the opportunities and challenges community nursing faces in continuing to provide end-of-life care during COVID-19.](#)

The tables below give an overview of all COVID-19 research activity across Suffolk. Please note that this information is provided for reference only and not for external publication.

**Primary Care Studies**

|   | Study Title   | Study aim  | Study setting | Local status  |   | Recruitment <sup>[1]</sup>  |
|---|---|--|---------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>Principle:</b> Platform randomised trial of Interventions against Covid-19 with older people<br/> <a href="https://www.phctrials.ox.ac.uk/principle-trial">https://www.phctrials.ox.ac.uk/principle-trial</a></p> | <p>To test different medications to see whether this reduces the need for hospitalisation or will speed up recovery in older patients (65+ or 50-64 with a pre-existing condition)<br/> <b>hydroxychloroquine</b> – recruitment paused<br/> <b>Azithromycin</b> – recruitment started<br/>                     Other medications may be added to the trial at a later point.</p> | Primary Care  | <p><b>Sites activated:</b><br/> <b>Suffolk:</b><br/>                     The Peninsula Practice;<br/>                     The Two Rivers;<br/>                     Victoria Surgery<br/>                     The Christmas Maltings &amp; Clements Practice<br/>                     Chesterfield Drive Haven Health Derby Road</p> | <p><b>NEE:</b><br/>                     Colchester Medical Practice<br/>                     Castle Gardens<br/>                     Medical Centre;<br/>                     Parsons Health Medical Centre;<br/>                     Shrub End Surgery;<br/>                     Wimpole Rd Surgery;<br/>                     Great Bentley Surgery<br/>                     Ambrose Group</p> | <p>48 across Suffolk &amp; NEE practices<br/>                     Nationally: 3,678</p> |

<sup>[1]</sup> Data collected from national research database – figures may lag behind actual figures

|   |   |  |                   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|-------------------|--|--|---|
|   |   |  |                   |  | Ardleigh Colne Medical Practice West Mersea Rowhedge Riverside |   |
| 2 | <b>FLU-CATS:</b> Evaluation and refinement of pandemic influenza community assessment tools | An observational study of pandemic influenza community assessment tools which is being amended to pick up COVID-19 patients  | Primary care      | Awaiting revised protocol for COVID-19       |  | Not yet set up  |
| 3 | <b>VIVALDI</b> COVID-19 in care homes   | An observational study to understand SARS-COV-2 infection immunity and its duration in care home staff and residents in the uk                                     | Care Homes        | 3 care homes in Suffolk / NEE are signed up. |  | North Court Care Home: 26<br>Catchpole Court Care Home: 36<br>Kingfisher House Care Home: 50<br><br>Local recruitment – 26<br><br>Nationally: 3,760 |
| 4 | <b>RECAP (REmote Covid Assessment in Primary Care).</b>                                     | <a href="#">This</a> research aims to develop a score for GPs to use when assessing how badly a patient is affected with COVID, to use over the phone or by video. | GPs and practices | Being set up across UK and Eastern           |  | No recruits showed yet  |

## Cross Sector Studies

|   | Study Title  | Study aim   | Study setting   | Local status  | Recruitment <sup>[2]</sup>   |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Chloroquine prevention of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the healthcare setting; a randomised, placebo-controlled prophylaxis study ( <b>COPCOV</b> )<br><a href="http://copcov.org/">http://copcov.org/</a>                | The aim of the study is to determine if hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis prevents symptomatic COVID-19 infection in front-line health care workers.   | Secondary Care but with the expectation that frontline workers across all health and social care sectors would be able to take part as participants | East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust selected to participate;<br><br>WSH in set-up | MHRA approved study to restart<br><br>Nationally recruited: 88   |
| 2 | <b>CROWN</b><br><b>CORONATION</b> Chloroquine Repurposing to healthWorkers for Novel Coronavirus mitigation<br><i>Study being amended to look at other prophylactic treatments instead of chloroquine / hydroxychloroquine</i> | The aim of the study is to determine the effectiveness of chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in healthcare workers at risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure. | Secondary Care but with the expectation that frontline workers across all health and social care sectors would be able to take part as participants | ESNFT expected to take part   | Not yet set up   |
| 3 | <b>Virus Watch</b>   | An observational study into understanding community incidence, symptom profiles, and transmission of COVID-19 in relation to population movement and behaviour.                               | All sectors expected to be involved in collection of serum samples for participants   | Colchester Medical Practice<br>Howard House Surgery<br>Oakfield Surgery<br>Stowhealth           | Colchester Medical Practice: 79<br>Howard House Surgery: 23<br>Leiston Surgery: 71<br>Oakfield Surgery: 22 |

<sup>[2]</sup> Data collected from national research database – figures may lag behind actual figures

|   |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|   |   |   | ng household s in Part 2 of the study. Part 1 is managed centrally                 | The Chesterfield Drive Practice               | Stowhealth: 84<br>The Chesterfield Drive Practice: 75<br><br>Nationally recruited: 46,226 |
| 4 | Multi-centre European study of MAJOR Infectious Disease Syndromes ( <b>MERMAIDS</b> ): Acute Respiratory Infections in Adults         | An observational study aims to identify host and pathogen related determinants of severity of community acquired acute respiratory infections in adults.  | This study will enrol participants in both primary care and secondary care.        | Trusts invited for expression of interest     | Not yet set up<br><br>Nationally: 47  |
| 5 | Behavioural Activation in Social Isolation ( <b>BASIL-C19</b> )   | This study is part of the MODS (Multi-Morbidity in Older adults with Depression Study) programme, looking at whether a talking treatment called Behavioural Activation (BA) can help improve a person's physical and psychological functioning, for example self-care and mood. The study is asking 'can we prevent or ameliorate depression and loneliness in older people with long term conditions who are under enforced COVID-19 isolation?' | Looking for Trust sites; with potential cross-sector involvement with primary care | Trusts invited for expression of interest     | Not yet set up  |
| 6 | Post-hospitalisation COVID-19 study: a national consortium to understand and improve long-term health outcomes ( <b>PHOSP-COVID</b> ) | The aim is to understand and improve long-term outcomes for survivors of hospitalisation with COVID-19. The PHOSP-COVID study is aligned to the clinical follow-up provided, but does not alter clinical care.  | TBC  | TBC   | Not yet set up  |
| 7 | <b>Psychological Impact of COVID-19</b>   | A survey to explore the psychological impact of COVID-19 outbreak and the resultant restrictions in terms of behavioural,   | Advertised through social media via local  | Norfolk & Suffolk NHS foundation Trust (NSFT) | NSFT: 104   |

|   |  |   |  |                                      |                                   |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|   | <b>N.B. the study adopted on NIHR portfolio but not badged with urgent public health status</b>      | emotional and social factors.   | Trusts and CCGs  |                                      |                                   |
| 8 | <b>Novavax COVID Vaccine study</b> – A trial to evaluate SARS-CoV-2 Recombinant Nanoparticle vaccine | 12-month placebo controlled trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the Novavax Vaccine in adults 18-84. | Study based at ESNEFT and supported by Primary Care team | ESNEFT; <b>recruitment completed</b> | ESNEFT: 168<br>Nationally: 15,203 |

### Secondary Care Studies

|    | Study Title   | Study aim  | Study setting  | Local status                                    | Recruitment <sup>[3]</sup>                           |
|----|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1. | <b>RECOVERY</b> : Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy | To test if existing or new drugs can help patients hospitalised with confirmed COVID-19; The UK New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG) advised that several possible treatments should be evaluated, including: <b>Lopinavir-Ritonavir</b> (arm closed-shown no clinical benefit; read more <a href="#">here</a> ), <b>Interferon <math>\beta</math></b> , <b>corticosteroids<sup>[4]</sup></b> , and | Secondary care; (Paediatric and neonatal arm to be added soon) | Open sites: ESNEFT (Ipswich and Colchester) WSH | WSH: 86 Ipswich Hospital: 186<br>Nationally : 24,045 |

<sup>[3]</sup> Data collected from national research database – figures may lag behind actual figures

<sup>[4]</sup> Corticosteroids used in the trial are expected to be sourced by local pharmacy procurement team via their normal routes, all other medications for RECOVERY sourced centrally via PHE

|    |  |   |                            |  |   |
|----|--|---|----------------------------|--|---|
|    |  | <p><b>Remdesivir, Hydroxychloroquine</b> (arm closed; read more <a href="#">here</a>), <b>Tocilizumab, Dexamethasone, convalescent plasma</b>. Other treatments may soon emerge that require evaluation. The supply arrangements for each medicine for RECOVERY trial are described <a href="#">here</a>.</p> |                            |  |   |
| 2  | <p><b>RECOVERY-RS (Respiratory support)</b></p> <p><a href="https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/research/ctu/trials/recovery-rs/">https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/research/ctu/trials/recovery-rs/</a></p> | <p>This study is aiming to determine if CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) or HFNO (high flow nasal oxygen) is clinically effective compared to standard care (excluding CPAP or HFNO).</p>   | <p>Secondary care</p>      | <p>Open sites:<br/>Ipswich Hospital<br/>Colchester WSH</p> | <p>ESNEFT:8<br/>Nationally : 903</p>    |
| 3. | <p><b>Re-MAP Cap:</b> Randomized, Embedded, Multifactorial, Adaptive Platform trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia</p> <p><a href="https://www.remapcap.org/">https://www.remapcap.org/</a></p>          | <p>The trial will look at a number of different treatment categories with an aim to determine the best clinically</p>   | <p>Secondary care/ICUs</p> | <p>All sites running RECOVERY study are invited to</p>     | <p>ESNEFT:30<br/>Nationally : 3,583</p> |

|    |  |  |  |   |   |
|----|--|--|--|---|---|
|    |  | effective treatment for adult patients with CAP admitted to participating intensive care units with suspected or microbiological testing confirmed COVID-19 infection. |  | participate                                       |   |
| 4. | <b>CCP-UK</b> Clinical Characterisation Protocol for Severe Emerging Infection' study/(ISARIC-4C)  | An observational study collecting samples and data from confirmed COVID-19 patients  | Secondary care                               | All acute Trusts in the Eastern region activated; | ESNEFT: 1935<br>WSH: 803<br><br>Nationally : 155,046    |
| 5. | <b>UKOSS:</b> Pandemic Influenza in Pregnancy<br><a href="https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukoss/current-surveillance/covid-19-in-pregnancy">https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukoss/current-surveillance/covid-19-in-pregnancy</a> | An observational study via the UK Obstetric Surveillance System to collect information on pregnant women admitted to hospital with confirmed COVID-19                  | Secondary care / Trusts with Maternity Units | Open sites: Colchester; Ipswich hospitals; WSH    | No recruitment data showing                             |
| 6. | <b>GenOMICC</b> Genetics of susceptibility and mortality in critical care  | An observational study to identify the specific genes that cause some people to be susceptible to specific infections and consequences of severe injury.               | Secondary care                               | Ipswich Hospital open WSH reviewing               | Ipswich Hospital: 48<br>WSH:1<br><br>Nationally : 8,472 |



|    |   |  |                |  |   |
|----|---|--|----------------|--|---|
|    |   |  |                |  |   |
| 7. | Coronavirus infection in primary or secondary immunosuppressed children.  | An observational study designed to allow families of immunosuppressed children and young people to self-record their experiences of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses during the COVID-19 epidemic. | Secondary care | Not open to new sites currently              | <b>Recruitment now complete</b><br><br>Nationally recruited: 1,633                  |
| 8. | <b>PAN COVID</b> : Pregnancy and Neonatal Outcomes in COVID-19<br><a href="https://pan-covid.org/">https://pan-covid.org/</a> | A global registry of women with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy and their neonates, understanding natural history to guide treatment and prevention                                     | Secondary care | Open sites: WSH ESNFT (Ipswich & Colchester) | ESNEFT: 32 West Suffolk:3<br><br>Nationally : 5,500                                 |
| 9. | Neonatal Complications of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Study  | This is a national surveillance programme using the standard British Paediatric Surveillance Unit (BPSU) approach. This study will run alongside   | Secondary care | Open sites: WSH                              | There will be no consenting (no recruits) for this study as linked to another study |

|     |  |   |                |  |  |
|-----|--|---|----------------|--|--|
|     |  | and be cross-linked with the maternal surveillance study run through the United Kingdom Obstetric Surveillance System (UKOSS; CPMS: 14162), which is already in progress.   |                |  |  |
| 10. | <b>TACTIC-R</b> (Multiarm Therapeutic study in pre-ICU patients admitted with COVID-19 - Repurposed Drugs) | The TACTIC-R clinical trial is testing whether existing drugs, which are already used to treat other immune-related conditions, can prevent the development of severe symptoms in patients hospitalised with confirmed/strongly suspected COVID-19. This approach, known as repurposing, is a way of finding out whether existing therapies, which are likely to be | Secondary care | Several sites in Eastern are being set up<br><br>Opened sites: WSH | WSH: 10<br><br>Nationally recruited: 290 |

|         |  |  |                |   |   |
|---------|--|--|----------------|---|---|
|         |  | readily available in hospitals, are effective in treating the disease.   |                |   |   |
| 1<br>1. | <b>SIREN:</b> Sarscov2 Immunity & REinfection Evaluation - The impact of detectable anti SARS-COV2 antibody on the incidence of COVID-19 in healthcare workers | An observational study which aims to find out whether healthcare workers who have evidence of prior COVID-19 infection, detected by antibody assays (positive antibody tests), compared to those who do not have evidence of infection (negative antibody tests) are protected from future episodes of infection. For SARS CoV2 infection it is not yet known if the detection of antibodies protects people from future infection. This study aims to provide this very important information, which will | Secondary care | Currently is being set up in secondary care – all trusts expected to take part as part of Trust wide antibody screening processes<br><br>Open sites:<br>WSH<br>ESNEFT | WSH: 484<br>ESNEFT: 350<br><br>Nationally recruited: 31,485 |

|        |   |   |                |                                  |  |
|--------|---|---|----------------|----------------------------------|--|
|        |   | help to understand the future impact of COVID-19 on the population.   |                |                                  |  |
| 1<br>2 | <p><b>NHS CHECK:</b> Health &amp; Experiences of staff working at NHS Trusts and Nightingale Hospitals</p> <p><a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/nhs-check-study-to-explore-the-effect-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-nhs-staff">https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/nhs-check-study-to-explore-the-effect-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-nhs-staff</a></p> | <p>Aims to establish a cohort of NHS-affiliated staff to investigate the short, medium and longer term psychosocial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on staff performance and wellbeing. NHS staff will be invited to participate, to complete an online survey module and an intervention evaluation module</p> | Secondary care | Open sites: ESNEFT               | <p>ESNEFT: 425</p> <p>Nationally recruited: 25,694</p> |
|        | <u><a href="#">What's the STORY?</a></u>  | <p>This Oxford Vaccine Group study is investigating the serological profile of children and young adults to assess how well the population is protected from vaccine preventable disease. This study will</p>   | Secondary care | Opened at: West Suffolk Hospital | No recruitment shown yet                               |

|  |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |  | involve blood sampling from people aged from birth to 24 years of age to look at their antibody levels against important infectious diseases. |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|

<sup>5</sup>Local update

A full list of all DHSC priority COVID-19 studies can be found at <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-studies/>

**Gosia Majsak-Newman**  
**Research & Development Officer/ NIHR GCP Facilitator**

Norfolk and Suffolk Primary and Community Care Research Office  
NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group | Lakeside 400, Broadland Business Park |  
Norwich NR7 0WG |

Mobile: 07552 008271

E-mail: [g.majsak-newman@nhs.net](mailto:g.majsak-newman@nhs.net)  
Team email: [nwccg.RandOffice@nhs.net](mailto:nwccg.RandOffice@nhs.net)  
Website: <http://nspccro.nihr.ac.uk>

Follow us on Twitter [@NHS\\_NSResearch](https://twitter.com/NHS_NSResearch)

*The Norfolk & Suffolk Primary & Community Care Research Office at NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG undertakes research management, design and delivery services for Primary and Community Care across Norfolk & Suffolk.*