

Informed Consent

Invitation to participate

We invite you to participate in the international multicentre study entitled

"Coping with COVID" (COPERS)".

Your participation is voluntary and you are of course not obliged to participate. This study is led by the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer. The study partners are universities from more than 10 countries.

Aims

The aim of this study is to investigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. In order to reach this goal, the short and medium-term effects and protective factors are examined. The data gathered will help us in developing evidence-based recommendations and interventions for better mental health.

We kindly invite all people who are interested to participate in this study. Your participation in the study is very valuable!

Procedure and duration

After agreeing to participate, we invite you to participate in the two-part study. The study is completely confidential and you can complete it online. In the first part we ask you some general questions (e.g., age, school education) as well as questions on patient experience and emotions.

In the second part, we will ask you about specific health symptoms. This survey is repeated three times: after three, six and 12 months.

Risks

The questionnaire involves multiple sensitive questions including questions on mental health and may therefore cause discomfort. You do not have to answer questions you feel uncomfortable with. You may skip questions you feel uncomfortable with and you can stop at any time.

Costs

There are no costs involved for you with the study.

Benefits

We cannot promise any benefits to you or others from your taking part in this research. However, your answers provide important information on how the pandemic may affect health and how best to respond to this pandemic and similar crises in the future.

Financial compensation

You will not receive financial compensation for participating in this study.

Confidentiality

All data is treated in strict confidence in accordance with the applicable General Data Protection Regulation and stored on a secure server at the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer. Your data cannot be identified. Only authorized personnel have access to the data. We guarantee that the records and all publications based on the records are completely anonymous. All your data is confidential and will not be passed on in any way.

Voluntariness

Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary. If you choose to participate, you may change your mind and leave the study at any time. Refusal to participate or stopping your participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Legal basis

The University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer processes the personal data you have collected based on your consent in accordance with Art. 6 Para. 1 S. 1 lit. a GDPR. If special categories of personal data are affected, the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer processes the personal data collected from you on the basis of your consent in accordance with Art. 9 Para. 2 lit. a GDPR.

The data is stored for a maximum of two years.

Participant rights

You will receive a PDF copy of this document as soon as you click the "I accept" button on the screen below and provide your email address. If you have any questions about your rights, you can contact the data protection officer at the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer (Mr. Manfred Nessen, E mail: Manfred.Nessen@hs-emden-leer.de).

Your rights

Within the framework of the legal requirements, you are basically entitled to the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer:

Confirmation whether personal data concerning you are processed by the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer,

Information about this data and the circumstances of the processing,

Rectification if this data is incorrect,

Deletion, as far as there is no justification for the processing and no longer an obligation to store,

Restriction of processing in special statutory cases and Transmission of your personal data - insofar as you have provided it - to you or a third party in a structured, common and machine-readable format

In addition, you have the right to withdraw your consent to the University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer at any time, with the result that the processing of your personal data, in accordance with your declaration of revocation, will make it inadmissible for the future. However, this does not affect the legality of processing based on consent before its withdrawal.

