IPASUM
Institut und Poliklinik für
Arbeits-, Sozial- und Umweltmedizin

FAU
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Medizinische Fakultät

Study information

For participation in the study:

"Post-COVID and post-vaccination symptoms, risk factors, and subjective disease perceptions"

Why is this study being conducted?

Soon after the first wave of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, there were frequent reports of persistent symptoms, even after recovering from the acute infection. Since then, such cases have come to be known as long COVID or post-COVID syndrome. Long / post-COVID can lead to considerable health problems. Despite significant research efforts on long / post-COVID, neither the mechanism by which this condition develops could be conclusively identified nor could a causative treatment be found. The factors investigated in this study – including symptoms, long-term effects, and subjective perceptions of the condition – could make an important contribution to the general understanding of long / post-COVID syndrome.

How will the study progress and what should I know about participating? What will happen with my data?
The project associates at the Institute and Outpatient Clinic of Occupational, Social, and Environmental Medicine (IPASUM) of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg or of *Klinikum Weiden* will send the study information, declaration of consent form, and questionnaire to all employees and students of FAU, *Universitätsklinikum Erlangen*, and *Kliniken Nordoberpfalz AG* (via a link to the online questionnaire or in paper form). Paper surveys are to be returned in a closed envelope by post or by interoffice mail directly to the IPASUM of FAU and stored there. As part of processing the questionnaires, a pseudonym (encryption code) will be generated by each participant. If you ever participate in one of our questionnaires in the future, the pseudonym allows us to consolidate the present data with previously reported data. Only the IPASUM project associates involved in this study have access to the encryption key. Collection and evaluation of the data sets will only take place in a pseudonymized form. With the exception of the responsible project associates at IPASUM, it is impossible for anyone to consolidate the scientific data with the pseudonym (encryption code). The scientific results of this research project are only published with anonymized data, which means that the data is in a format that cannot lead back to any individual survey participant. We comply with all stipulations of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and all other legal provisions. Individual participants will not be automatically notified of study results. Nobody – other than the employees involved in this project – has access to the study data. All employees involved in this project are bound by data and social-data confidentiality. Identification of individual study participants via the scientific results is not possible in any way.

If you participated in our COVID-19 questionnaire in previous years, it may be that you have seen some of the questions in this survey before. Nevertheless, please answer the questionnaire **completely**, including questions that you may have answered in the last survey.

What personal benefits are associated with participating in this study?
There are no personal benefits to be expected from participation in this study. The benefits of this project include the clarification of possible risk factors for post-COVID syndrome or post-vaccination syndrome as well as the investigation of factors which lead to long-term recovery/improvement or a worsening of

symptoms. These findings may contribute to the improvement of care for post-COVID and post-vaccine patients.

What risks are associated with participating in this study?
This project consists only of evaluating data from the answers given in the provided questionnaires. As such, there are no risks associated with this study. **No** medical procedures will take place and biological materials (e.g. blood, tissue samples) will **not** be collected.

Who is able to participate in this study?
Required for participation is your voluntary consent to the processing of your questionnaire. There are no other specific criteria for exclusion.

Will I incur any costs for participating in this study? Will I receive any compensation?
You will not incur any costs. It is unfortunately not possible to provide compensation to participants in this study.

Will I be informed of any new findings during the study?
No. Individual participants will not be notified of the results of the study.

Who will decide whether I can participate in or withdraw from the study?
You make the decision on whether you participate in or withdraw from the study. Participation is voluntary. You have the right to end your participation in this study at any time without providing a reason. Non-participation or withdrawal from the study (withdrawal of consent) will not be penalized in any way.

Who can I contact with further questions?
The project associates at the Institute and Outpatient Clinic of Occupational, Social, and Environmental Medicine (IPASUM) in Erlangen are available to answer any questions you may have:

Dr. med. Anna Wolfschmidt-Fietkau (principal investigator)
Dr. med. Stephan Ott (doctor, research associate)
Institute and Outpatient Clinic of Occupational, Social, and Environmental Medicine
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
Henkestr. 9–11
91054 Erlangen, Germany
Tel.: 09131/85-26114 (Dr. Wolfschmidt-Fietkau); 09131/85-26133 (Dr. Ott)
Fax: 09131/85-22317
Email: anna.wolfschmidt@fau.de ; stephan.ott@fau.de