

Who can I contact if I am interested in the study?

You can call the main study office at 416-586-4800 ext.2767 or email us at IDresearch@mtsinai.on.ca. A member of the study staff will then arrange to talk to you in detail about the study so you can decide whether or not you wish to participate.

You may also contact the investigator at your site:

Mount Sinai Hospital & University Health Network

Dr. Allison McGeer or Dr. Brenda Coleman

(416) 586-4800 x2767

IDresearch@mtsinai.on.ca

North York General Hospital

Dr. Kevin Katz

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St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Matthew Muller

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Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Dr. Andrew Simor

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Toronto East General Hospital

Dr. Jeff Powis

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INFLUENZA COHORT STUDY



University Health Network
Toronto General Hospital Toronto Western Hospital Princess Margaret Hospital

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Health Complex 



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ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL
A teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto



**TORONTO EAST
GENERAL HOSPITAL**



**North York
General Hospital**
Including the IOOE Children's Centre

Embracing Health

 **Sunnybrook**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

Why are we doing this study?

The purpose of this study is to determine if health care workers are at increased risk for illness due to influenza relative to other working adults and to identify risk factors for influenza in healthcare workers. It will also describe the number of cases of influenza infection, how ill people become with their illness, and whether personal factors such as age or existing chronic conditions make a person more likely to become ill with influenza.

Who is being asked to participate?

We are asking for the participation of 1,420 healthcare workers and 330 other working adults. Because participants need to make weekly reports to the study, it is important that all participants have access to a computer with the internet.

Because swabs of the nose have to be obtained on the 1st or 2nd day of any acute respiratory illness (any "cold" or influenza), we are looking for people working at the hospitals listed below and for people who live or work close to Mount Sinai Hospital in downtown Toronto.

How long will the study last?

The study will last until the end of the viral respiratory/influenza season this winter. This is usually mid-April, but can sometimes be a bit later.

If I agree to participate, what do I need to do?

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to:

- Complete a web-based questionnaire about your job and other possible risk factors for influenza infection. This takes about 15 minutes in total.
- Complete a web-based questionnaire once a week from the middle of November to the middle of April to report any symptoms of acute respiratory illness, which takes 1-2 minutes to complete.
- If you develop any symptoms that might be due to a viral infection (for instance, stuffy/runny nose, cough or fever), have a nasal swab done and complete a brief illness diary each day that you have symptoms. It takes about 2 minutes to complete each illness report.

You also have the option of providing 2 blood samples, one at the beginning and another at the end of the study, to measure your immune system's reaction to influenza.

Are there any risks to participating in the study?

There are no physical risks to participating in the study. Having a nasal swab is uncomfortable. If you choose to have blood specimens taken, you may have some pain and bruising at the site.