



# COVISION Co-Design Workshop Ireland

## Information sheet for children/young people (10-17 years) and parents

- Study Title:** The COVISION Study: Children as Innovators - Harnessing the Creative Expertise of Children to Address Practical and Psycho-social Challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic
- Lead investigator:** Dr Suja Somanadhan
- Department:** UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.
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### Introduction

All round the world, children's lives have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For many it has made their life very difficult. But children have also been active and organised in tackling the problems and coming up with creative ideas to help their friends, families and communities stay safe and stay positive in these difficult times. Our research project aims to find out how children have done this, and what we can learn for the future from their experiences.

We are Dr Suja Somanadhan, Dr Helen McAneney and Dr Harry Shier, who all work for the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems at University College Dublin (we are also parents of children whose lives have been affected by the COVID pandemic and are finding ways to deal with it).

#### A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Your daughter or son should read this leaflet carefully before deciding to sign the assent form and make a commitment to join our project. We would be very grateful if you could also discuss it with her or him to help them decide.

Also, your daughter or son cannot participate in our project without *your* informed consent as their parent or legal guardian. Therefore, it is also important for you to read this leaflet carefully and sign the parent's consent form. If you want more information about the project, there are links and contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Many thanks, COVISION Project team

## What is this research about?

This project aims to find out how children's creative activities are contributing to positive social action during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Why are we doing this research?

By learning more about children's creative responses to COVID-19, we can also learn about:

- How to strengthen children's capacity to deal with the challenges they face during and after the pandemic.
- How children's actions can help to make communities stronger and better prepared for dealing with disasters, pandemics, and other unexpected changes.

## Why have we invited you to take part?

We are looking for children aged 10-17 years old who are interested in our research, who feel enthusiastic about getting involved, and who are available and willing to commit to a series of workshops including both on-line and face-to-face sessions.

If you are accessing this information, that means you have already heard about the project or seen our online publicity. If you are still interested after reading this leaflet, get in touch (see our contact details at the end) we will discuss the details with you and hopefully sign you up as part of our workshop team.

## What will it involve if you decide to participate?

*There will be a number of COVISION Workshop Teams in different countries that will collaborate and share with each other. This leaflet is about the team that will work in Ireland. Teams in other countries may work a bit differently according to their own culture and social situation.*

The current plan is for a series of workshop sessions, face-to-face and on-line, as follows:

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<b>Hackathon</b>	Face-to face session: about 3 hours with breaks, refreshments, games etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Getting to know each other, forming a team, deciding how we want to work together.</li><li>▪ Understanding the goals and the plan for the workshop process.</li><li>▪ Learning about what we've already found out from previous work.</li><li>▪ Coming up with new ideas for helping children and families live through pandemics.</li><li>▪ Choosing at least one idea we'd like to see put into practice.</li><li>▪ First rough design of the idea(s) to take forward.</li></ul>
<b>On-line session</b>	Zoom meeting: 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Each Workshop Team hears the ideas from teams in other countries. They suggest feedback on how to improve, adapt and strengthen each idea.</li></ul>
<b>On-line session</b>	Zoom meeting: 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Each Workshop Team gets feedback on their own idea from the other teams. They can use this feedback to improve their original idea and turn it into a final deliverable proposal.</li></ul>

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<b>Pitch Day</b>	Face-to face session: 2 hours – then lunch break – then 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Workshop Team meets in the morning and prepares to pitch their idea to policy-makers and professionals after lunch.</li><li>▪ After lunch, a number of relevant policy-makers, public officials and professional experts are invited to join the group.</li><li>▪ The Workshop Team pitch their proposal(s) to the adult experts.</li><li>▪ The adult experts give them their feedback and are asked to give a firm commitment on action they will take in response, and how they see this idea being taken forward.</li></ul>
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There will be further opportunities for you to be involved in promoting and following up your action plan, including a COVISION final celebration event in November 2022. But you can decide about any further involvement later on, and for now your commitment is just up to Pitch Day.

### **How will your ideas (data) be used?**

1. We will work with policy-makers in government and other agencies so that your ideas can eventually be put into practice and have a real impact in helping communities get through pandemics and other disasters.
2. We will record and analyse the whole workshop process, to learn more about how children can work together to come up with new creative ideas (innovation).

### **How will your privacy be protected?**

When we write up the findings and make presentations, we will not mention any of the participants by name and will not give any information that can be used to identify who you are.

Later if you decide to get involved directly in promotion and follow-up of your ideas, like participating in our final celebration event, we will make a new agreement with you where you can confirm that you want people to know who you are and what you have achieved.

### **What data will be stored and how?**

Workshop sessions may be recorded with permission of all participants. The recordings (and any written transcription of them) will be stored on a computer protected by a password in a locked office in a secure building at University College Dublin. Only the adult research team will have access to the recordings, and only for purposes of this research. Data from the workshops will be analysed and may be used in publications, but this will not contain any information which could identify individual participants. All recorded data will be destroyed after 5 years.

When the Workshop Team's final ideas and action plans are ready for presentation, they will go forward for publication, promotion, and implementation with members' agreement as the collective work of the group.

### **What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?**

Taking part in our study is not a paid job. It is a voluntary commitment.

However, there could be all kinds of benefits for you if you decide to take part:

- You will learn a lot about the topic of the research.
- You will have a good experience of working with others on an important project, and learn new skills for working with others, including online collaboration.
- You will meet new people and might make new friends – it could be fun.

- You will know that you have made a real contribution to helping other children, families and communities face pandemics and disasters in the future.
- This would be an achievement you (and your family) could feel proud of.
- All this could boost your confidence for new projects in the future.

We will give you a Certificate of Achievement as a member of the COVISION Workshop Team, outlining what you have done.

We will pay for food and refreshments and travel costs for attending the face-to-face sessions. There should be no cost involved in participating in on-line sessions. If you need any additional support to be able to participate, let us know and we will do all we can to make sure the support you need is provided.

A small token of recognition will also be offered to Workshop Team members.

### **What are the risks of taking part in this research study?**

It is hard to think of any serious risks in taking part. Any possible risks – like somebody finding out about your involvement and trying to harm you, or you being upset by something that is discussed, or a falling-out with another participant leading to unpleasantness – are extremely unlikely. In any case, the adults running the sessions will be experienced and sensitive and will know how to support anyone who is having difficulties.

### **Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the process?**

Yes, you can. There will be no penalty and you do not even have to give a reason if you do not want to.

However, we are really hoping that people will stay for all the sessions, as this will make the whole process much stronger.

### **How will you find out what happens with this project?**

We will send you a plain-language summary of all our follow-up activities, which are likely to include publication of articles, presentations at meetings and conferences, and other publicity activities. We will also let you know about progress with promoting your ideas and putting them into practice (but if you do not want to receive any more communication from us you can always opt out).

As we mentioned above, there could also be opportunities for you to be directly involved in follow-up activity. We will discuss and agree this with you when the time comes.

### **Contact details for further information.**

If you have any worries or questions about the study, please contact Dr Suja Somanadhan via email. [suja.somanadhan@ucd.ie](mailto:suja.somanadhan@ucd.ie) You can contact the project team by email at: [covision@ucd.ie](mailto:covision@ucd.ie)

For more information go to our website: [www.covision.ie](http://www.covision.ie)

If you would like to join the COVISION Co-Design Workshop, or discuss it further with us, drop us an email and we will arrange it.