



Participant Consent Form

You are invited to participate in a research study entitled: Exploring the impact of COVID-19 visitor restrictions on care in ICU

Student Researcher(s):

- Ms. Caitlyn Kitts; Medical Student; College of Medicine; University of Saskatchewan; Caitlyn.Kitts@usask.ca
- Ms. Sana Mohamad; Undergraduate Student, University of Saskatchewan; sam782@usask.ca
- Dr. Christine Patterson; Resident Physician; Dept. of Anesthesiology; University of Saskatchewan; Christine.Patterson@usask.ca

Researcher(s):

- Dr. Jennifer O'Brien; Research Associate; Dept. of Anesthesiology; University of Saskatchewan; Jennifer.OBrien@usask.ca
- Dr. Joann Kawchuk; Intensivist and Anesthesiologist; Dept. of Anesthesiology; University of Saskatchewan; Joann.Kawchuk@usask.ca
- Ms. Faith Bae; Registered Nurse; College of Nursing; University of Saskatchewan; Faith.Bae@usask.ca

Principal Investigator/Supervisor: Dr. Sabira Valiani, Intensivist; Dept. of Medicine; University of Saskatchewan; Email: SValiani@usask.ca; or via ICU clerical support at 306-655-0041.

Purpose and Objective of the Research:

- To understand the impact of visitor restrictions on patients, patient family members and healthcare provider perceptions of care in Canadian ICUs during COVID-19.
- To explore solutions and inform planning for the future.

Procedures:

- A research assistant (FB) will ask questions about your experience as a patient in a Canadian ICU during the COVID-19 visitor restrictions and suggestions for administrators, healthcare workers, and patients, and patient families facing similar circumstances.
- We will conduct the interview over WebEx, telephone, or email. The interview will be audio recorded (with your permission) and you have the right to ask us to turn the recording device off at any point without giving a reason. If you do not grant permission to be audio recorded, the interviewer will take field notes during the interview.

- Interviews will be transcribed by research assistants (CK or SM). Your transcript will be returned to your preferred email for you to add, amend, or delete as you'd like. If we do not receive a response within two weeks, we will include the transcript as-is. We will seek your permission prior to using any direct quotations in the manuscript, and potentially identifying information (institutions, hospitals, agencies) will be removed. These questions should take less than 1 hour of your time.
- You can participate in the interview from a location of your choosing.
- Please feel free to ask any questions regarding the procedures and goals of the study or your role.

Funded by: Saskatchewan Center for Patient Oriented Research & College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Potential Risks:

- There is a risk that you could be identified because of your relationship with the project team. Dr. Valiani and Dr. Kawchuk are ICU physicians. It is possible they might recognize you through your responses to interview questions, if you discuss shared experiences and provide a great enough level of detail.
- There is an additional risk that these questions may expose painful and recent memories.
- If you were admitted in the ICU within the past 3 months, we suggest waiting to participate in this study until 3 months have passed, but feel free to contact us for more information prior to that point.

Risk(s) will be addressed by: If you become distressed during the interview, the research assistant will use communication and de-escalation techniques to support you. If you experience distress, you should follow up with your primary care physician. In more remote communities that may lack a physician, you should follow up with a community nurse or health center. If you do not have a primary care physician or community nurse, you can access information and support through

- *Canadian Virtual Hospice, which provides support and personalized information about palliative and end-of-life care to patients, family members, and health care providers. www.virtualhospice.ca*
- *First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line, which offers immediate help to all Indigenous peoples across Canada, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week: 1-855-242-3310 Toll free, 24/7 for Mental Health and Wellness, or use the online chat at hopeforwellness.ca.*
- *Crisis Services Canada. If you are experiencing a crisis, strong emotional reaction or suicidal thoughts, call 1-833-456-4566.*
- *You can access 24/7 support in your province for medical and mental health questions or concerns: In Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon: dial 8-1-1. In Ontario, call TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. In Manitoba: In Winnipeg dial 204-788-8200; elsewhere in Manitoba (toll free) 1-888-315-9257. In North West Territories:*

NWT Help Line at 1-800-661-0844. In Nunavut: Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Help Line at 867 979 3333 or Toll free: 1-800-265-3333.

- We will help you to find these resources if you don't know how to access them.

Potential Benefits:

- We hope that this research will lead to a framework of patient family and health care provider perspectives for considering the impact of visitor restrictions, but this is not guaranteed.

Confidentiality:

- The data from this study will be published and presented at conferences; however, your data will be deidentified through the use of a master list that links your name to your de-identified transcript. Although direct quotations may be reported from your responses, you will be given a pseudonym, and all identifying information (name of the institution, hospital, or agency) will be removed from the report.
- This interview will be conducted using WebEx. Your data will be stored in facilities hosted in Canada. Please see the following for more information on the [Cisco WebEx Privacy Policy](#).
- Please note that although we will make every effort to safeguard your data, we cannot guarantee the privacy of your data, due to the technical vulnerabilities inherent to all online video conferencing platforms.
- Interviews will be conducted in a private area of the interviewer's home or office that will not be accessible to individuals outside the research team for the duration of the interview. We suggest that when you are participating in an interview that you also do so from a private location.
- Participants in the interview (both interviewer and interviewee) agree not to make any unauthorized recordings of the interview. Audio data will only be collected by the interviewer if you grant your permission to help with transcription and interpretation of your interview.
- If you choose to answer the interview questions by email, you can send email responses to faith.bae@usask.ca . We will copy your responses into a Word document for analysis, identified only by your study number so your name remains confidential.
- Your responses will be reported with everyone else's, so that it will not be possible to identify you. Your name will be kept separate from your responses to the questions. We will remove direct and indirect identifiers from the data such as institution, hospital, or agency.

Please check the box to grant or deny your permission:

I grant permission to be audio recorded.

I do NOT grant permission to be audio recorded.

Storage of Data:

- Audio recordings and transcripts will be stored for 5 years post-publication following the USask guidance for protecting university data, (found at <https://itsecurity.usask.ca/learn->

[about/working-remotely.php#Whatisworkingremotely](#)). Specifically, we will

1) use only the University OneDrive to access, enter, process, or store university data,
2) avoid copying or storing university data on any personal, unmanaged computer or mobile device; and
3) refrain from emailing restricted data; we will share links to OneDrive instead sending of data files over email. All research data will be stored in OneDrive on university servers, accessible only by invitation. It will not be stored in a home.

- We confirm that personal computers used in the home will be protected by a PIN at least six digits long, automatically lock after 2 minutes of inactivity, and can be remotely erased if it is lost or stolen (as per the USask Mobile Phone Program).
- We anticipate that the research assistant will use a personal computer or cell phone which will remain on their person, but the RA will not copy or store research data on any personal device. We cannot confirm that electronic devices temporarily used in the home will be used exclusively for research.
- In addition, you will not be named in any publications. The master list linking your name to your responses and this consent form will be stored in a separate folder on the U of S server from the data and permanently deleted following publication of the study results.
- Identifying information, (e.g., Consent Forms, Master Lists) will be stored separately from the data collected. The master list will be destroyed once the study is published.

Right to Withdraw:

- Your participation is voluntary and you can answer only those questions that you are comfortable with. You may withdraw from the research project for any reason, at any time without explanation or penalty of any sort.
- Should you wish to withdraw, you can email faith.bae@usask.ca to have you data deleted from the research project and destroyed.
- Whether you choose to participate or not will have no effect on your position (e.g., employment, academic status, access to services) or how you will be treated.
- Your healthcare providers will not know who has decided to participate and who has not, so that your decision to participate or withdraw cannot have any impact on your future health care.
- Your right to withdraw data from the study will apply for two weeks following the receipt of your transcript. After that, it is possible some form of analysis will have occurred, and it will not be possible to withdraw your data.

Follow up:

- A summary of study results will be available in October 2021 from Jennifer O'Brien (Jennifer.obrien@usask.ca) and will be posted on the [Department of Anesthesiology's public website](#).
 - To receive a summary of study results, please provide your email or mailing address:
-

Questions or Concerns:

- Contact the researcher(s) using the information at the top of page 1.
- This research project has been approved on ethical grounds by the University of Saskatchewan Behavioural Research Ethics Board. Any questions regarding your rights as a participant may be addressed to that committee through the Research Ethics Office: ethics.office@usask.ca; 306-966-2975; out of town participants may call toll free 1-888-966-2975.

Consent:

Please complete either the oral consent or signed consent below depending on whether data is being collected by email or as a web-based interview.

Oral Consent:

I read and explained this consent form to the participant before receiving the participant's consent, and the participant had knowledge of its contents and appeared to understand it.

Name of Participant	Researcher's Signature	Date
---------------------	------------------------	------

OR

Signed Consent:

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the description provided. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered. I consent to participate in the research project. A copy of this consent form has been given to me for my records.

<i>Name of Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
----------------------------	------------------	-------------

<i>Researcher's Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
-------------------------------	-------------

A copy of this consent will be left with you, and a copy will be taken by the researcher.