UK Biobank - COVID-19 Data Release FAQs
April 2020

This document provides information for researchers relating to the release of COVID-19 data for participants in UK Biobank. It has been prepared based on questions that have been received by UK Biobank’s Access Team, alongside other information which we believe will be of most relevance to researchers.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. **What data are available?**
   Results of COVID-19 tests for UK Biobank participants (both positive and negative test results) are provided by Public Health England (for participants resident in England). We plan to update these data on a weekly basis.
   We plan to make the following data available on a monthly basis:
   - GP (primary care) data provided directly by the system suppliers;
   - Hospital inpatient data;
   - Death data;
   - Critical care data (for participants with confirmed COVID-19)
   We plan to obtain these data from providers across England, Wales and Scotland, although our priority is to first make the data available for participants in England, as these comprise about 90% of the cohort.

2. **How do I access these data?**
   In AMS, go to ‘Projects’ in the left-hand pane, then click ‘View’ next to the project through which you wish to access COVID-19 data. Go to the ‘Data’ tab where you will find a button that takes you to a sign-up page to register for access.

3. **I can’t access the ‘Data’ tab. How can I request these data?**
   Only the PI of a project, or collaborators listed as delegates in the ‘Collaborators’ tab, can access the ‘Data’ tab. Please ask the PI of your project to sign-up for access to COVID-19 data.

4. **For what purpose can I use these data?**
   The primary care data can **ONLY** be used for the purposes of COVID-19 research, as stipulated by the Secretary of State in the COPI regulations.

5. **Can I use my existing dataset(s) for COVID-19 research?**
   Yes – you will be asked for the application number of your existing project when you register to access data relating to COVID-19, so that the data you download can be merged with this application.
6. **Do I need to submit a scope extension?**
   No - when you register to access data relating to COVID-19, you are automatically authorised to conduct COVID-19 related research.

7. **Does the MTA for my existing project need to be amended?**
   No – no change is required for your MTA in order to access these data or to perform COVID-19 related research.

8. **I am not currently using UK Biobank data. How do I access data to perform COVID-19 research?**
   Researchers who are not yet registered with UK Biobank or who are not named on existing projects, should first register with us and submit an application as normal. Instructions on our registration and application processes are found in our [AMS User Guide](#). We are fast-tracking all COVID-19 related applications so that you can access these data as quickly as possible.