



CARRIAGE main study

Welcome to the first edition of the CARRIAGE Newsletter

A lot has happened since the CARRIAGE study began and we're excited to tell you how your participation is yielding results and facilitating future studies. **Thank you for all your help!**

Why is this study important?

The CARRIAGE Study is investigating why some people carry the skin bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) in their nose all the time, whilst other people carry it from time to time or not at all.

For most people, carriage of *S. aureus* is harmless. However, a small number of people are susceptible to *S. aureus* infections due to a weakened immune system and, in some cases, these infections may be serious and resistant to antibiotic treatment.

We are conducting a large study to understand what determines the carriage of *S. aureus* in humans which will help to design new ways to prevent and treat infections caused by *S. aureus*.

The study phases

The CARRIAGE study is being completed in three phases.

Phase 1 was completed in December 2016 with 250 participants and its primary goal was to assess the acceptability of nasal self-swabbing in healthy volunteers.

Phase 2 began in January 2017 with 2000 participants. This phase assessed the feasibility of collecting, processing, and analysing nasal swabs in large numbers of participants.

Phase 3 began in February 2019 and our goal is to recruit 20,000 participants to help us identify the biological determinants of persistent nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* in humans.

We are really grateful for your help with the CARRIAGE study!



Who can join?

Who can join? Only people who previously have taken part in the INTERVAL and COMPARE studies will be invited; this is because we have already collected essential data from INTERVAL and COMPARE participants (e.g. blood sample measurements, genetic results, lifestyle factors etc.) which may be important in determining *S. aureus* carriage.

Study progress

Currently, 4500 participants have signed up to take part in the study, and at the time of writing 3100 of these have already sent back all 3 of their swabs.

The CARRIAGE helpdesk

The CARRIAGE Study helpdesk is open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

If you have any queries regarding the study please do not hesitate to contact us via email:

helpdesk@carriagestudy.org.uk

Or on our Freephone number: **0800 064 0089**

As a CARRIAGE participant we will continue to update you on the study. The findings will be posted on our website: <http://www.carriagestudy.org.uk/findings/> and we'll let you know, by email, when they are available. To make sure you receive our emails, please let us know, by emailing: helpdesk@carriagestudy.org.uk, if you change your contact details.

Coronavirus situation

Due to the ongoing situation with the novel corona virus (COVID-19), we have some additional information to follow for participants who are currently taking part in the study or who finished in the last two weeks. Please visit our website <http://www.carriagestudy.org.uk/about-the-study/corona-update/> for more details.

Alternatively, please refer The Department of Health and Social Care website for latest information and advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

Trial Website: <http://www.carriagestudy.org.uk/>

Any general queries please contact:

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