Healthcare worker Participant Information Sheet

Interventional Trial - *Adult providing own consent*

Site: England, United Kingdom

Title	BCG vaccination to Reduce the impact of COVID-19 in healthcare workers (**BRACE**) Trial
Short Title	BRACE
Protocol Number	HREC number 62586
Trial Sponsor	Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI)
Coordinating Chief Investigator and Principal Investigator	Prof Nigel Curtis - Australia Prof John Campbell - England
Location	England, UK
IRAS ID	286410

1 We invite you to take part in a research trial

We are inviting you to take part in this trial because you are a healthcare worker in England. This trial is testing whether the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine can help reduce the severity of COVID-19 in healthcare workers.

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the trial. It explains the tests and treatments involved. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the trial.

Please read this information carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative, friend or your local GP. General information about participating in a research trial can be found on the NHS Health Research Authority website: https://www.hra.nhs.uk/

Taking part in this trial is completely voluntary. If you decide not to take part, it will not have any negative affect on the care that you receive, or on your job role, or affect your legal rights.

If you decide you would like to take part in the trial, you will be asked to read the information carefully before you are asked to sign the consent section on the study website. By signing your consent you are telling us that you:

- understand what you have read and asked any questions you need to about the trial
- consent to have the tests and treatments that are described in the information
- consent to the use of your personal and health information as described.
- consent to take part in the trial

You will be sent a copy of this Participant Information and signed Consent Form to keep.

If you would like more information or wish to speak to a trial team member before providing your consent, please contact:

BRACE UK trial team: bracetrial@group.exeter.ac.uk / 01392 723391

2 General information

This research is initiated by the University of Exeter in collaboration with Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Australia and is being conducted by researchers in various hospitals and other health and social care organisations internationally. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are providing funding towards the overall research at the MCRI in Australia and the Peter Sowerby Foundation are providing additional funding towards this research in the UK.

This trial will enroll 4,000 participants from Europe and 10,000 participants worldwide. It is expected that 1,000 participants will participate in the UK.

3 What is the purpose of this trial?

The severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2) is a coronavirus that emerged in China in December 2019. It is predicted that up to 60% of the population could become infected. There have been already over 18,000,000 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and greater than 690,000 deaths globally (as of 04 Aug 2020). For around 80% of people, the virus causes mild to moderate disease with symptoms similar to common respiratory diseases such as influenza, including fever, cough, and fatigue. In around 14% of people the disease causes severe disease that requires hospitalisation. The remaining 6% are critical cases that have respiratory failure, septic shock and/or organ failure.

This trial is focused on healthcare workers as these individuals are most likely to be at the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because healthcare workers work closely with patients they have greater exposure and possibly greater risk of contracting the virus. There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19, so protection of healthcare workers relies on the use of personal protective equipment. When healthcare workers are sick and unable to come to work, apart from the obvious detriment to them, it also puts extra pressure on the healthcare system. All healthcare staff, including doctors, nurses, care-home staff, cleaners and administrative staff are vital to ensuring the health system can function during a pandemic of this scale. It is vital that the healthcare system doesn't lose a significant portion of the workforce due to illness.

The tuberculosis (TB) vaccine, BCG, has been shown to protect against non-TB infections by boosting the immune system. Studies show that it can decrease mortality of those infected by half and protects against other infectious diseases and improves the response to other vaccines. The mechanism by which BCG influences immunity is not completely understood

We want to find out whether the BCG vaccine might protect against COVID-19. We are interested to know if the vaccine can reduce the number of cases of COVID-19, and the severity of the illness caused by the virus, compared to a placebo.

The BCG vaccine is approved in the UK to protect against TB. However, it is not approved to protect against other infections, such as COVID-19. This trial is an experimental use of this vaccine.

The results of this trial will help us find out whether, in future novel disease outbreaks, BCG vaccination could be used as an early intervention to protect healthcare workers and high-risk groups. You can be in the trial whether or not you have had the BCG vaccine in the past.

4 What's involved?

If you decide to take part, your participation will last no more than 12 months and will follow the process described below.

Eligibility screening

Firstly you will be asked some screening questions that will determine if you are eligible to be able to take part in this trial.

You will have a chance to consider the information in this information sheet and discuss it with your family, friends or GP if you wish. You can also contact us for more information (see Section 14). If you are happy to participate, we will need to ask you to provide your consent please – via tablet at the research clinic.

If you agree to be in this trial, we will ask you to fill in some questions about yourself and your health. This will include your date of birth, name and other identifying details. We will ask you to complete a baseline questionnaire on whether you have had any other vaccines recently, or about any other medical conditions you may have. We will ask you about your general health and lifestyle habits, and whether you have had the BCG vaccine before. You will not be able to take part if you are receiving medical treatment that affects your immune response (or other immunosuppressive therapy), or have a serious underlying medical illness, or have received any live vaccine in the past month, or BCG vaccine in the past year.

Participants who have had active TB in the past will be excluded. If someone has had active TB in the past, they are immune to TB so there is no indication to give BCG clinically. Because of this, there is no data available on the safety of giving BCG to people who have had active TB in the past.

In addition, if you have recently had the current seasonal influenza vaccination (or have an appointment booked to receive the flu vaccine), we need you to make sure that you leave 72 hours (3 days) between the flu vaccination and attending your first BRACE study assessment visit.

Once you have completed the questionnaire, you will come to confirm your eligibility for the study, and get your trial vaccine at a local research clinic at a specified time of day, via our online booking system.

Visits and tests

The trial involves you visiting your local research clinic three to five times in the next 12 months. The first visit will last an hour and the other two visits will last about 15 minutes each.

During your first visit, we will confirm that you have signed the consent form (via a tablet at the clinic), filled out the baseline questionnaire and will ask you the screening questions again (via a tablet at the clinic).

Healthcare workers that are pregnant will not be eligible to participate in this trial**.** Although BCG vaccination has not been shown to be harmful during pregnancy, the use of live vaccines (such as BCG) during these times is contra-indicated. Therefore, if you are pregnant, or planning to fall pregnant within a month of enrolment in this trial, you will not be allowed to participate in this trial. All women who could potentially become pregnant are required to have a negative pregnancy test before taking part in the trial. If you could be pregnant we will ask you to do a pregnancy test prior to taking part.

Once we have confirmed that you are able to be part of the trial, the trial team member will collect a blood sample of up to 30 ml (about 6 teaspoons). This will be used to check whether you have already been exposed to COVID-19 before being in this trial and to look at the changes the vaccines make to your immune system. These results will be used only for the purposes of the trial and will not be available to be sent to individual patients

Vaccination

This is a randomised controlled trial. Sometimes we do not know which treatment is best for treating a condition. To find out we need to compare different treatments. We put people into groups and give each group a different treatment, either the vaccine or the placebo. The results

are compared to see if one is better. To try to make sure the groups are the same, each participant is put into a group by chance (random).

In this trial we will put you into one of two groups:

- Intervention group 1 – You will be given a placebo vaccine. A placebo looks like the real thing but contains no active ingredients.
- Intervention group 2 – You will be given the BCG vaccine.

The chance of being in each group is 1 in 2, or 50%. You and the researcher will not know which group you are in until the end of the trial. However, to reassure you in an emergency, the trial team can find out which group you were in, if this information is needed.

<u>If you consent to being in this trial you are agreeing that you are happy to be in either group and to not knowing which group you are in.</u>

After we have collected the blood sample, you will be randomly allocated to one of the two intervention groups. If we are unable to collect your blood, you cannot take part in this trial and will not be randomised.

A research trial team member will administer your BCG vaccine or placebo in the arm. Once you have had your vaccine, you will need to stay in the hospital or clinic for 20 minutes, which is for your own safety and usual practice when a vaccine is given.

Questionnaires

For this part of the trial we ask that you download an app on your smartphone for use during this trial. Having a smartphone, or access to a smartphone, for this purpose is a requirement of taking part in the study.

Via a personalised link, we will ask you to complete a questionnaire 2 weeks after your vaccination date to tell us about your reaction to the vaccination. We need this information whether you had the BCG vaccination or the placebo, because we will not know which intervention group you are in. We will ask you about your vaccination site (whether there is any reaction), and to send us a photograph of the vaccination site (using your smartphone) even if there is nothing to see

Every week for the 12 months of the trial we will send a reminder via the app, asking if you have had a fever or respiratory symptoms since the last time you responded. If you haven't been unwell (with fever or respiratory symptom), all you will need to do is respond by saying 'no'. If you don't answer, we will send you a text or an email reminder and may also call you to check how you are doing.

If you have been unwell you will respond with 'yes' and complete a questionnaire. We would like you to complete a questionnaire about any time that you are unwell with a fever (temperature over 38˚C) or with any respiratory symptom (sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing). We expect the survey will take no longer than 2-minutes each day that you are unwell. You will be able to access the questionnaire at any time using the app.

Every 3 months after your vaccination (at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months), we will send you a longer questionnaire via the app asking about your exposure to COVID-19 and any medical procedures you may have had. To the best of your memory, we will also request you to confirm the main episodes of illness experienced in the prior 3 months. We will also ask for information on the vaccination site of the BCG or placebo, and if you have a wound, how your arm has healed. Since BCG can also help prevent other viral infections, we will also ask you if you have a recurrent herpes infection (such as cold sores on the lips). This will be asked at your first visit and in the questionnaires at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months after vaccination. These longer questionnaires take about 10 minutes each time.

Follow up samples

If you report symptoms of respiratory illness or fever during the 12 months of this trial, we want to confirm whether you have COVID-19 or not. If you have these symptoms you should have a test done through your normal national or workplace arrangements, which may involve throat and nasal swabs, and we will need to get your permission to obtain these results for the trial. In rare circumstances, home visits or self-swabbing kits may be required to ensure access to COVID-19 testing. The app you use to log your symptoms will prompt you to get a test if you need one.

Approximately 3, 6, 9 and 12 months after your vaccination, you will attend a trial visit and the trial staff will collect a blood sample of up to 30mL. This will be tested to see if you had a COVID-19 infection without having symptoms and to look at the changes the vaccines made to your immune system. The blood collections at 6 months and 9 months may be done by self-administered finger prick blood spots with kits provided to you by the study team. This means you could collect the sample at home yourself instead of at a site study visit. If this is your preferred way of providing your sample we will also ask you for your home address so that we can mail the in-home collection kits to you.

As a participant in the study you will receive messages from the study team. You may receive these messages via a third party communications platform used by the study team.

You may need to use an online appointment scheduling platform to book study visit appointments. You may be required to login to book and manage your appointment time for your clinic visit.

To enable you to receive messages and to manage your study appointments, some limited personal information (such as your name, mobile phone number and email) may be transferred to the vendors of the third party platforms. The platforms used by the study team have been carefully chosen so that your personal information will be stored securely and processed only in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy laws and regulations. The vendors of the relevant platforms are not permitted to share your personal information with any third parties, and may use your personal information solely to communicate with you regarding the study.

5 What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any direct benefits from this trial. However, we hope that the BCG vaccine may boost your immune system. It may provide you with non-specific protection to other illnesses.

Information we collect in this trial will help to inform how we respond to outbreaks of new diseases in the future.

6 What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

BCG vaccine

BCG is one of the most widely used vaccines in the world with an established safety record. It has been given to children since the 1920s. Most vaccines are injected into muscle, BCG is a little different as it is given just under the skin (into the 'intradermal' layer) of the left upper arm. BCG immunisation hurts a little, but this is minimised when given by experienced staff such as those who will be performing the procedure in this trial.

The usual expected reaction to BCG vaccination is redness and/or a small 'papule' (a pimple or lump) at the injection site that appears weeks to months after vaccination. A few weeks later, the papule usually softens and breaks down to a small ulcer (an open sore - usually less than 15 mm in diameter). The ulcer is painless and may last from weeks to months. Having an ulcer should not impact your ability to go to work, but please check with your GP or employer if you are uncertain. You can cover it with a bandage or plaster during the day while it is an open wound. Once the ulcer has healed, this usually (but not always) leaves a small flat scar.

BCG vaccination can occasionally have side effects, which usually get better by themselves, without requiring any specific treatment. You may have none, some or all of the effects listed below, and they may be mild, moderate or severe. If you have any of these side effects, or are worried, contact us.

Common side effects:
These reactions are seen in less than 1 in 100 people immunised with BCG and usually resolve without any specific treatment:

- Abscess at the injection site or a larger ulcer
- Keloid scar at injection site (it means 'a scar thicker than usual')
- Swelling of local gland (lymph node) near the infection site (usually under the arm or near the neck)

Rare side effects (less than 1 in 1000):

- Infection of the armpit lymph node, with swelling, abscess or ulcer.

Very rare side effects (less than 1 in 1 million)
These conditions are usually associated with an underlying inherited issues with the person's immune system.

- Disseminated BCG infection, where the vaccine bacteria spread throughout the body or to the bone occurs in 1-4 in 1 million doses.
- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) to the BCG vaccine has been reported only 2-3 times in the 100 years the BCG vaccine has been used.

You should contact us immediately if you experience a rare or very rare side effect.

An excessive response to the BCG vaccine may result in an ulcer with some discharge. If this happens, you should encourage the ulcer to dry and avoid abrasion (by tight clothes, for example).

Information for participants who have previously had a BCG vaccine or previous positive tuberculosis screening test (suggesting previous BCG vaccine or exposure/natural infection):

- You can be in the trial whether or not you have had the BCG vaccine in the past.
- There is no data available on the safety of giving BCG to people who have had active TB in the past. If you have had TB you should not have BCG vaccine and cannot participate.
- If you have had a BCG vaccination previously, there is an increased risk that you may have an earlier, "accelerated" reaction which may begin within 24-48 hours of vaccination with toughening of the tissue followed by pustule formation in 5-7 days and healing within 10-15 days. Local skin lesions (ulceration and discharge) are more frequent in adults who have had a previous BCG vaccine than those who have never had BCG vaccine before. However, the risk of severe armpit lymph gland infection and disseminated BCG or reactivated tuberculosis disease has not been found to be more common in adults who have had previous BCG vaccine or positive tuberculosis screening tests.
- Revaccination with the BCG as a part of this trial does not align with current vaccination guidelines, however it has been carefully considered upon systematic review of the literature to date. Side effects will be actively monitored during the trial and medical review available for any participants who have concerns about their BCG vaccination site or scar.

Potential interaction between BCG and COVID-19 illness

Although there is a hypothetical risk that BCG vaccination could worsen the COVID-19 illness (via an exaggerated immune response) we consider this highly unlikely. We think BCG vaccine is more likely to protect against COVID-19, by reducing the severity of the illness caused by the virus. You may or may not receive any benefit from having the BCG vaccine.

Risks related to Placebo injection

Getting an injection can sometimes cause very minor pain from the needle or be uncomfortable. The placebo injection will be administered by a trained research nurse.

Risks of blood collection and throat/nasal swabs

Having a blood sample collected may cause some discomfort or bruising. Trained members of the research team will collect these samples. Having a throat or nasal swab (if you need one during the study) can sometimes be uncomfortable.

It is important that you carefully weigh up the possible pros and cons before you decide to participate. We think that the BCG vaccine will provide protection against COVID-19 earlier, and will reduce the severity of any disease, but this is not certain. You may not receive any benefit from the BCG vaccine, or you may receive the placebo.

Participation in the trial also means that you spend extra time taking part (completing questionnaires and 3 visits to a local research centre in total).

7 What if I don't want to carry on with the trial?

Participation in any research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the trial at any stage without having to give a reason. Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with organisation that you work for, or affect any care that you would receive, or your legal rights.

The data collected up to that point will be used for the trial. If you wish, collected body material can be destroyed.

If there is new information about the trial that would be important for you to know, the researcher will get in contact with you. You will then be asked if you wish to continue your participation.

If you do decide to take part, you will have a copy of the Participant Information to keep and we will ask you to sign the Consent Form. We will give you a copy of the signed Consent Form to keep.

8 What will happen at the end of the trial?

Your participation in the trial will end if

- all your visits are completed
- you choose to withdraw
- the researcher thinks it is better for you to stop
- The University of Exeter, MCRI, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the government, or the evaluating medical ethics review committee, decide to stop the trial.

After processing all data, the researcher will inform you about the main results of the research. This will happen about 12 months after your participation. The researcher can also inform you which group you were in. If you do not want this information, you can tell the researcher. S/he is not allowed to inform you in that case.

After 12 months we will not contact you for further follow-up related to this trial. If you have agreed, we may contact you about future research.

9 Use and storage of participants' data and blood samples

How will we use information about you?

We will need to use information from you for this research project.

This information will include your name, address, telephone number, date of birth, NHS number, and information about your GP and your health. Participation also involves taking blood samples from you. The collection, use and storage of your data and your blood samples is necessary to answer the questions asked in this trial and to publish the results. We will ask your permission for the use of your data and bodily material. All of this information will be held by the sponsor for the research (Murdoch Children's Research Institute, MCRI) in Australia. Only authorised individuals of the research team will use this information to undertake the research, or to check your records to make sure that the research is being undertaken correctly. Nobody else will be able to see your name or contacts details unless they are authorised to do so. Your data will be allocated a code number.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

Once the study is finished, we will keep the anonymised data so we can check the results. You will not be able to be identified in any of the study reports to protect your confidentiality.

In addition, we will obtain details about your health and healthcare resource use from the appropriate healthcare provider, in order to help determine if the BCG reduces the likelihood of being admitted to hospital, whether it is cost effective and will help us measure the outcomes at the end of the trial. In the UK, self-reports from participants may be supplemented by tracking of participants using their NHS number or other relevant unique identifiers (provided by participant), or by drawing on Hospital Episode Statistics and Office of National Statistics data to track health service use (admissions) and deaths.

How will my information be kept confidential?

Your information and blood samples will be assigned a unique trial number (code) in order to maintain confidentiality and anonymity. Your name and other data that can directly identify you are not used. Data can only be traced back to you with the code key. The key of the code remains safely stored at the main trial site (Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), Australia). The collected information will be stored securely at the MCRI in locked filing cabinets or in restricted access folders on the Institute's secure network drive, and will only be accessible to the research team. The University of Exeter have put in place stringent contractual arrangements to ensure that the standard is applicable to GDPR regulations. The data and body material that are sent to any other involved parties, will only contain the code, but not your name or other identifiable data, to protect your confidentiality.

To advance science, medicine and public health, we will also like to be able to share your anonymised data with other ethically approved research projects, biobanks, or medical journals. Only the BRACE trial research team on this project will be able to match your name to your code number. We will take security measures to protect your data if and when we share it with other researchers. With these efforts, you are very unlikely to be re-identified by someone outside of this research project. In the unlikely event that this happens, someone from the research team will contact you. If, at any point, you think that your may have been re-identified, please let us know.

What will happen to my test samples?

Immediate storage of your blood samples obtained for the purpose of this trial will initially be stored at your local research clinic, but may then be transferred to the main trial site (Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), Australia). They may be stored in freezers at the Infectious Diseases and Microbiology research laboratory at the MCRI until analysis. Your samples will not be sold by MCRI.

Your samples will be stored labelled with a unique participant code, not your name or any other identifying information. Only the research team will have access to the code. Only the members

of the research team will be able to access your samples and will update reports on their location and processing. The freezers are locked in a secure building and can only be opened by members of the research team who have access to the key.

- **Biobanking of samples (OPTIONAL PART OF THE TRIAL)**

If you agree to take part in this trial, you will have the option to take part in future research relating to immunology, vaccines or infectious diseases using your data saved from this study.

Samples would be stored, labelled with a code, at MCRI laboratories (Infectious Diseases Group) in Melbourne, Australia. For tests that require equipment or technical expertise not available in Melbourne, select specimens may be sent to collaborating laboratories outside of Melbourne (interstate and/or overseas) for further testing.

Any research conducted with your samples will be approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee. We do not plan to contact you for your permission to conduct this future research.

This part of our trial is optional, if you agree to this, please tick the box on the final page of this form. If you do not wish to do this part of the study, you can still participate in the main trial.

- **Genetic analysis (OPTIONAL PART OF THE TRIAL)**

Our bodies are made up of different types of cells. Inside these cells are genes. Genes are passed down in families from parents to children: You get half your genes from your mother and half from your father. Our genes contain all the information that makes us what we are, including our eye colour, blood type, and height and whether we are born as a boy or a girl.

There are about 23,000 genes that make up a human being and genes are arranged along a chemical substance called DNA. If you provide additional consent for genetic analysis we will extract DNA from your blood sample. We will look to see if there are genetic features in your DNA that might be associated with COVID-19 responses, how your immune system functions, how the vaccinations changed your immune responses, and whether they alter the ability for BCG to protect against COVID-19. This genetic analysis is for research purposes only and the significance of the results are unknown, therefore we will not provide individual results to you.

This part of our study is optional, if you agree to this, please tick the box on the final page of this form. If you do not wish to do this part of the study, you can still participate in the main trial.

Accessing your information for verification

Some individuals may access all of your data at the research site, including identifiable data. This is because it is necessary in order to monitor whether the research has been carried out properly and reliably. Those who have access to your data for inspection are: members of the trial team, the committee that monitors the safety of the research, a monitor that has been hired for the sponsor of the trial, national and international supervisory or regulatory authorities, for example, the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). They keep your data confidential. By signing the consent form, you authorise release of, or access to, this confidential information to the relevant trial personnel and regulatory authorities as noted above.

Transfer to countries outside the UK

In this trial, your participant data and blood samples must be sent to countries outside the UK, because this trial is conducted in collaboration with the main trial site, MCRI in Australia. In Australia, the same legislation as in the UK for the protection of your personal data does not apply. However, your privacy will be protected at an equivalent level. By signing the consent form, you authorise release of your name and address details to the main trial site in Australia, as noted above.

Retention period of data and bodily material

We are required to keep information collected as part of a trial for at least 15 years. The anonymised research information may be destroyed or kept indefinitely in secure storage after this time. Your information will be stored for future ethically approved research.

Information about unexpected findings

During this trial, something may be found by chance that is not important for the trial but that may be important for you. If this is important for your health, you will be informed by your doctor or specialist. You can then discuss with your GP or specialist as to what needs to be done. We ask you to give permission for this.

What if I want to withdraw my consent?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason and without it affecting the care you receive, your employment or your legal rights. However, we will keep the information about you that we have already collected. This applies to this study and also to the storage and use of your data for future research. Your bodily material will be destroyed after your consent has been withdrawn. If tests have already been completed with those samples, then that data will still be used.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

- at www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/
- by asking one of the research team or other contacts at the end of the Information Sheet,
- by sending an email to bracetrial@group.exeter.ac.uk
- by ringing us on 01392 723391

As the trial sponsor is located outside the UK, the University of Exeter has been designated to act as its representative, which is termed Legal Representative. If you have any questions or concerns/complaints about the processing of your personal data, we recommend that you first contact the research team. You can also contact the University of Exeter's Data Protection Officer, or the UK's Information Commissioner's Office. See Section 14 for contact information.

Trial registration

Information about this research is also included in an overview of medical scientific research via the clinicaltrials.gov website. It does not contain any data that can be traced back to you. After the trial, the website may show a summary of the results of this investigation. You can find this trial under its registration number: NCT04327206.

10 Who has reviewed this research?

The NHS Research Ethics Committee of the Health Research Authority (HRA) has approved this trial for the UK. General information about the review process of research can be found on the on the NHS Health Research Authority website: https://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-us/committees-and-services/res-and-recs/. HRA Approval and MHRA Approval will be sought for the trial in the UK.

11 What to expect during the consent process

After you have had enough time to read and consider the trial information, and ask questions, you can indicate whether you wish to participate by completing the online consent form. If you give permission, we will ask you to confirm this in at your first trial visit, electronically via a tablet. By giving your consent, you indicate that you understand the information and agree to participate in the trial. Both you and the research team will receive a signed version of the consent form to be

sent by email. We will also ask for your consent to contact your GP in order to notify them that you are taking part in the trial.

12 What if new information becomes available during this trial?

Sometimes during the course of a trial, new information becomes available about the intervention that is being studied. In this particular case, if we happen to find that BCG is highly effective to prevent COVID-19 disease and/or severity, we will offer BCG vaccine to the participants randomised to the control group (intervention group 1). On the contrary, if BCG appears to be harmful, i.e. higher rates of disease and/or severity, we will alert participants in the BCG group of the greater risk which may allow them to seek alternative ways to protect themselves from getting the COVID-19 disease.

13 Other relevant information about the trial

We will not tell the organisation(s) that you work for which staff members have consented, refused or were ineligible to participate in this trial.
There are no costs associated with participating in this trial, nor will you be paid. All medication, tests and medical care required as part of the trial will be provided to you free of charge.

Some research studies do not allow participants to be in two studies. We allow this but other studies may not. If you participate in this trial you will not be able to participate in trials of other preventative measures for COVID-19.

You can continue to take your regular medication during the trial. As the BCG vaccine is live-attenuated, you should not receive any other live-attenuated vaccine (such as measles-mumps-rubella, varicella or yellow fever vaccines) in the month following your inclusion in the trial. Also you cannot receive any vaccinations in the same arm for 3 months after the vaccine is given. However, you can receive all inactivated vaccines at any time in the other arm. If you have any concerns about this then please contact your GP or ask for more details from the research team.

While you are in this trial it is important that you do not go and get the BCG vaccine elsewhere.

14 Contact details for further information

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any medical problems which may be related to your involvement in the project (for example, any side effects), you can contact the on-duty trial co-ordinator on 01392 723391 or any of the following people:

Trial team contact

Name	Amy McAndrew
Position	BRACE trial manager
Telephone	01392 723391
Email	bracetrial@group.exeter.ac.uk

Principal Investigator

Name	John Campbell
Position	Professor of General Practice and Primary Care University of Exeter Medical School
Telephone	01392 722740
Email	john.campbell@exeter.ac.uk

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, then you may contact:

UK Trial Legal Representative

Legal Representative	University of Exeter

Legal Representative Name	Pam Baxter
Position Address	Senior Research Governance Officer Research Ethics & Governance Office, University of Exeter
Telephone	01392 723588 / 07485042117
Email	P.R.Baxter2@exeter.ac.uk

UK Data Protection Officer

Name	Brenda Waterson
Position	Data Protection Officer, University of Exeter
Telephone	01392 726842
Email	b.waterman@exeter.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in the BRACE Trial