

University of Sydney/Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences & SESLHD Public Health Unit

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET AND CONSENT FORM

A Social Practice Approach to Improving Cruise Passenger Health/Hygiene

Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research study into [how passengers perceive and respond to health risks while preparing for and being on a cruise.

The study is being conducted by:

- Dr Olaf Werder, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney
- Prof Mark Ferson, Director and Public Health Officer, Public Health Unit, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
- Dr Catherine Bateman-Steel, Deputy Director, Public Health Unit, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
- Ms Kelly-Anne Ressler, Epidemiologist, Public Health Unit, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District
- Ms Theaanna Kiaos, Research Associate, University of Sydney

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

1. What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose is to investigate how people prepare for a domestic or international cruise and whether and how they engage in what is known as healthy cruising behaviour during a cruise.

The study forms a pilot study to further improve the local health authority's ability to assist passengers via information, education and outreach.

2. Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

You are eligible to participate in this study because you are a family unit resident (i.e., a family with 2 or more members) in the greater Sydney area who are booked on a cruise from Sydney in the 2019 summer/autumn season, who responded to our social media recruitment.

3. What does participation in this study involve?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to commit to the following actions:

(1) Prior to your cruise departure, you will briefly meet with a research team member to fill out the consent form and obtain instructions for the photo diary activity.

(2) While on the cruise, you will start keeping a photo diary of your activities and experiences and upload those to a designated Dropbox folder) according to the instructions provided to you in the earlier meeting

(3) After you return, you will participate in an interview (about 60-90 min), where you will discuss your experiences and also your photo diary.

The interviews will cover a range of topics from describing how you plan and prepare from going on a cruise to your opinion about what staying healthy and not catching any bugs means to your ideal situation for help if you get sick on a cruise ship.

Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential.

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form.

4. What if I don't want to take part in this study, or if I want to withdraw later?

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you participate or refuse to answer any of the questions. If you decide not to participate, it will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney or the SE Sydney Local Health District.

If you wish to withdraw from the study once it has started, you can do so at any time without having to give a reason.

However, it may not be possible to withdraw your individual comments from our interview records once the group interviews as the group structure and set-up already have your identifying details removed.

5. How is this study being paid for?

The study is supported by a small pilot grant from the University of Sydney's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

6. Are there risks to me in taking part in this study?

The only foreseeable risks in taking part in this study are possible inconvenience of giving up your time for taking part in an interview, talking with recruiting research assistants in a short meeting and taking a few photographs and uploading them to the Dropbox folder.

Whilst all care will be taken to maintain privacy and confidentiality, you may experience embarrassment if one of the group members were to repeat things said in a confidential group meeting

7. Will I benefit from the study?

This study aims to further health behaviour knowledge and may improve future promotional or prevention efforts from government and private entities, however aside from learning a bit about health and cruising it may not directly benefit you.

8. Will taking part in this study cost me anything, and will I be paid?

Participation in this study will not cost you anything, nor will you be paid. You will receive an incentive to join in the form of a Westfield voucher or an STA travel voucher (e.g., credit towards a future cruise) in the amount of \$150 to be issued at the completion of the post cruise interview. In addition, refreshments will be provided during the interview segment of the study.

9. How will my confidentiality be protected?

Any identifiable information that is collected about you in connection with this study will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission, or except as required by law. Only the researchers named above will have access to your details and results that will be held securely at the locked offices of one of the PIs at the University of Sydney.

10. What happens with the results?

If you give us your permission by signing the consent document, we plan to discuss/publish the aggregated, de-identified results will be reported via internal presentations to the Local Health District and academic partner, the HREC for monitoring purposes. Moreover, research publications will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals and professional conferences. Finally, abstracted results will be used for further federal grant applications.

Please note again that in any of the above dissemination forms, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

11. What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before I decide?

When you have read this information, the research assistant, Ms. Theaanna Kiaos, will discuss it with you and any queries you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact one of the principal investigators, Dr Olaf Werder, at the Department of Media & Communications, either via email at olaf.werder@sydney.edu.au or via phone at 9114-1219.

12. Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?

This study has been approved by the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee. Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study should contact the Research Support Office which is nominated to receive complaints from research participants. You should contact them on 02 9382 3587, or email SESLHD-RSO@health.nsw.gov.au and quote [*HREC project number 2018/PID00650*].

**Thank you for taking the time to consider this study.
If you wish to take part in it, please sign the attached consent form.
This information sheet is for you to keep.**



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CONSENT FORM

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1. I,.....
of.....
agree to participate in the study described in the participant information statement set out above.
2. I acknowledge that I have read the participant information statement, which explains why I have been selected, the aims of the study and the nature and the possible risks of the investigation, and the statement has been explained to me to my satisfaction.
3. Before signing this consent form, I have been given the opportunity of asking any questions relating to any possible physical and mental harm I might suffer as a result of my participation and I have received satisfactory answers.
4. I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice to my relationship to the University of Sydney or the SE Sydney Local Health District.
5. I agree that research data gathered from the results of the study may be published, provided that I cannot be identified.
6. I understand that if I have any questions relating to my participation in this research, I may contact Dr. Olaf Werder on (02) 9114-1219 or olaf.werder@sydney.edu.au, who will be happy to answer them.
7. I acknowledge receipt of a copy of this Consent Form and the Participant Information Statement.

Complaints may be directed to the Research Support Office, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick NSW 2031 Australia (phone 02-9382 3587, fax 02-9382 2813, email SESLHD-RSO@health.nsw.gov.au .

Signature of participant [or person responsible] (insert or delete as necessary)	Please PRINT name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Signature of witness	Please PRINT name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Signature of investigator	Please PRINT name	Date
_____	_____	_____



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REVOCAION OF CONSENT

I hereby wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in the study described above and understand that such withdrawal **WILL NOT** jeopardise any treatment or my relationship with the University of Sydney or the SE Sydney Local Health District.

Signature of participant
[or person responsible]

Please PRINT name
(insert or delete as necessary)

Date

The section for Revocation of Consent should be forwarded to **(INSERT name and address of Principal Investigator)**.