

Dear Parents:

My name is Laura Mason, and I am a co-investigator for the Coronavirus and Autism Behavioral Study. The Ohio State University is looking at the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families, while also identifying the factors that contribute to child and family risk and resiliency within this population. We would like to invite you to participate in our research, and hope that the information provided below will help you learn more about this opportunity!

What is the Coronavirus And Autism Behavioral Study (CABS)?

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may be potentially vulnerable to the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are conducting a national study on the impact of the coronavirus on children with autism spectrum disorder and their families, with a particular interest in demographics and diversity. Broadly, we want to track the development of children with autism throughout the quarantine period of the pandemic, and learn about the emotional wellbeing and structure of the family during this time. Results from this study are hoped to help clinicians and practitioners improve treatments and services over time, supporting educational, behavioral, and social health in both children with autism and their families. Having a greater understanding of the development of children with autism following a pandemic should benefit care and enhance success in meeting the needs of these patients and their surrounding community.

What Can I Expect When I Participate?

For families, taking part in the study is exciting, easy, and enjoyable. This study is conducted entirely online/virtually, and you can complete all components of the study from your own home at your own convenience. Importantly, only you as a parent are involved in this study – no direct assessment of your child with autism will occur. First, you will be asked to partake in a Phone Screening with a qualified member of our research team. During this call, you will learn about your role as a participant, understand any potential risks and benefits of your participation, and confirm your eligibility for the study. You and the researcher will also work through a short questionnaire which allows us to evaluate how your child relates to standard diagnostic criteria for autism (e.g., DSM-5), and provides us with basic information about your child's development and behavior. If you qualify for our study, we will invite you to fill out a questionnaire designed to understand your child and your family's experiences, before joining a researcher for a video interview meant to discuss your child's development in-depth. Given that we would like to track your child and family over time and measure any progress, we will then ask to follow up with you 3 months later, requesting that you fill out another questionnaire and join a second video interview. We anticipate your total participant to amount to 4.5 – 5 hours overall, over the course of about 3 months. As a thank you for your efforts, we compensate participants for their time throughout study administration.

Will My Information Be Kept Confidential?

Information collected for this study is completely confidential, as mandated by law. Each participant will be assigned a unique family identification code that will be separate from the data we collect, and video interviews will be recorded and reviewed later using private and secure procedures. In the event that we publish findings from our research, you and your family's identity will not be revealed. Only the research team and our corresponding research specialists will have



access to this data, and it will be stored in a password-protected, electronic database.

How Do I Sign Up?

If you decide that you would like to participate in our study, or if you would simply like more information, please feel free to contact us by phone (614-247-4997) or by email (CABS-Research@osu.edu). Additionally, please feel free to visit our website (<https://u.osu.edu/cabs/>).

We thank you in advance for your time, and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Laura Mason, Co-Investigator
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