



For questions and more information about the study, please contact the team using the information below:

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If you are interested to enroll in this study,

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

We will contact you to schedule a home visit!

Title of study:

Biosurveillance and risk factors of SARS-CoV2 in cats

Name of investigator and institution:

Dr. Farina Mustaffa Kamal, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Name of sponsor:

Malaysia One Health University Network (MyOHUN)

Introduction:

It is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take your time to read through and consider this information carefully before you decide if you are willing to participate. Ask the study staff if anything is unclear or if you would like more information. After you are properly satisfied that you understand this study, and that you wish to participate, you must sign this informed consent form.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw from it at any time. If you withdraw, any data collected from you up to your withdrawal will still be used for the study. Your refusal to participate or withdrawal will not affect any medical or health benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

This study has been approved by the Medical Research and Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health Malaysia and the Universiti Putra Malaysia Institutional Animal Care and Use.

Background and purpose

SARS-CoV2) has emerged in the late 2019 and to date, has caused an unprecedented disease known as Covid19. This virus is mainly being spread by human to human transmission through droplet transmission requiring close contact with positive individuals. Interestingly, there were reports on pets of COVID19-positive patients could get infected from their human companions. More evidence is needed to identify the percentage of cats that can get infected with the virus and the possible risk associated with management of the cats, physical and social interaction between human and their pets. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to identify the status of SARS-CoV2 in cats within Covid19-positive household and the risk factors associated with human to cat transmission for Covid19.

This research will be conducted for duration of 6 months (15 February 2021-15 August 2021). The expected number of participants is 220.

Cat(s) requirements

Eligible: Cat(s) aged of more than 6 months old, compliant during sample-taking procedure, of any gender and health status.

Ineligible: Cat(s) not compliant during sampling

What do we require from your cat?

We will need a blood sample (1ml), oronasal and rectal swabs from your cat(s). The procedures are completely harmless and can be done within 10-15 minutes. The procedure may cause slight discomfort and some cats may experience mild bruise or hematoma on the blood drawing site or showed respiratory symptoms such as sneezing after oronasal swab procedures.

Cat owner responsibilities

Our study team will make a scheduled visit to your home to obtain the cat's samples. It is important that you answer all of the questions asked by the study staff honestly and completely which will take about 15 minutes of your time. Study team will also access your medical records for the following information:

1. the date tested positive for Covid19
2. date of admission
3. date of discharge/date released from the quarantine
4. whether patients were symptomatic prior to testing (if yes, date of symptoms)

You will be given a survey form to be answered. This form contains TWO sections which will enquire about demographic section and cat information section. The demographic section will also include information on individual and home location (urban/rural/peri-urban, either or not situated in SARS-CoV2 hotspots). The cat information associated with cat(s) signalment, cat's health status, management of the cat(s), social and physical interaction with your cat(s).

What are the potential risks and side effects of being in this study?

Participation to this study will not affect your treatment, and the risk is minimal. You are free to decline to answer any of the questions that you feel uncomfortable with. Termination is subject to lack of participation, the decision by the sponsor due to safety concern on the possibility of Covid19 transmission or if cat(s) being non-compliant during the process of sampling. Subjects will be informed if the study is terminated.

What are the benefits of being in this study?

There may or may not be any benefits to you. All diagnostics (RT-PCR and antibody testing) performed in this study will be at no cost to the cat's owner. Information obtained from this study will help us to collect more data, and identify the risk factors associated with SARS-CoV2 transmission from human to cats. There will be a token of appreciation for participating in this study in the form of free cat food. No other monetary or non-monetary compensation will be given to the study participants.

Who is funding the research?

This study is sponsored by Malaysia One Health University Network (MyOHUN). You will not be paid for participating in this study.

Will my medical information be kept private?

Only study staff, qualified monitors and auditors, the sponsor or its affiliates, and governmental or regulatory authorities, have direct access to your medical record and study data in order to make sure that the study is conducted correctly and the data are recorded correctly. All personal details will be treated as **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**. Subject's names will be kept on a password-protected database and will be linked only with a unique study identification number for this research. The identification number instead of patient identifiers will be used on subject data sheets. All data will be entered into a computer that is password protected. On completion of study, data in the computer will be copied to external hard drive and the data in the computer erased. External hard drive and any hardcopy data will be stored in a locked office of the investigators and maintained for a minimum of three years after the completion of the study. The external hard drive and data will be destroyed after that period of storage. Subjects can write to the investigators to

request access to study findings pertaining to their cat only. Subjects will not be allowed to view their personal study data related to the risk factors, as the data will be consolidated into a database.

What will happen to my cat(s) if they are positive for Covid19?

DON'T WORRY! We will not take away your cat as there is **NO** established risk of transmission from cats to humans or other animals. We will recommend you to just keep them indoors, monitor them and as their owner, to practice hygiene measures. To date, cats with Covid19 were reported to be either asymptomatic (no symptoms) or having mild symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, diarrhea and vomiting. However if they are not well, please call the study coordinator for assistance. If your cat requiring treatment or follow-up, we will not be responsible for any costs incurred.

Who should I call if I have questions about the human or cat part of the study?

If you have any questions about the study relating to the risk factor questionnaire and you want information about this study, please contact the study doctor, Prof. Dr Syafinaz Amin Nordin at telephone number [03-97692478].

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study, please contact: The Secretary, Medical Research & Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health Malaysia, at telephone number [03-3362 8407/8205/8888]

If you have any concerns regarding this project or your pets, please do not hesitate to contact at telephone number [013-9467891] or email Dr. Farina Mustaffa Kamal: farina@upm.edu.my / Nur Karmila Zainundin: karmila197@gmail.com/covid19feline@gmail.com. Be assured your cat's comfort comes first!

We truly appreciate your participation. Thank you.

Study approval number: NMRR 20-1834-55758; IACUC UPM R043-2020