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The COVID-19 Herekorenga Study by Pictor

Pictor is an invitro diagnostic development company in Parnell, Auckland.

In 2020, we received a CIAF (COVID-19 Innovation Acceleration Fund) grant from MBIE which enabled us to use our unique technology to develop a COVID-19 specific test. Pictor is about to launch clinical trials in the US as a requirement for FDA Emergency Use Approval, however we want to focus a study looking at the unique population in Aotearoa New Zealand so that we can help to keep our community safe in the face of COVID-19.

How can you help with the study?

Pictor is currently looking for volunteers to join our Herekorenga (Freedom) study with the purpose of improving New Zealand's response to COVID-19 through improved infection control at our border and within our communities. We are looking to include people from all ethnic backgrounds, ages and genders.

We are looking in particular for three groups:

I. People who have been infected with COVID-19

II. People who have been vaccinated (one or two doses)

III. People who have not been infected with COVID-19 and have not been vaccinated

There will be two Auckland-based medical clinics that will be working alongside Pictor in this study. They will be documenting patient details and collecting patient samples.

What do volunteers need to do to participate?

- Approximately 20mls of blood will be required to be taken from each patient. This is about the same amount as what your doctor would take for a routine blood test
- Patients are only required to give a blood sample once during this trial.

How long will it take?

- Total contact time in the medical clinic will be approximately 30-45 mins – this will include completing trial documents such as consent forms.
- The trial is expected to take place in November. You will be contacted prior to this to arrange participation

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What will happen to the sample before, during, and after testing?

All samples will be retained after testing to build a bank of suitable samples for future research **however**, participants who wish for their samples to be returned after use can request this at the time of consent.

Prior to testing with the Pictor COVID-19 assay, all patient samples will be labelled with a unique study number to maintain patient confidentiality. Samples will then be run on the Pictor COVID-19 test.

What happens to the test results?

The results will be analysed using Pictor's customised analysis software to detect antibodies to the two major COVID-19 proteins (Spike protein and Nucleocapsid protein).

This information allows us to distinguish between a natural Covid-19 infection and a vaccinated immune response and these details will be used to develop a risk score.

At the completion of the study, you will be informed of your own test results.

What is a risk score?

A risk score will enable health professionals to assess individuals COVID-19 status and their potential risk to the community. There are several other potential outcomes depending on the group that it is being assessed.

In the case of MIQ, travellers will be categorised as high or low risk, with low-risk groups likely being allowed into the community in a shorter time frame. It will also help in the detection of COVID-19 immunity status which will impact future vaccination requirements.

If you have any further questions about your involvement in the COVID-19 Herekorenga study, or if you no longer wish to participate, **please contact Gillian Moore, Clinical Trials Administrator, Email: clinicaltrials@pictordx.com, Ph: (021) 891 728**

We look forward to meeting with you all soon.

Nga Mihi,

The Clinical Trials Team @ Pictor

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