

Have you heard about ‘genomic sequencing’ or ‘molecular analysis’ used to ‘track and trace’ COVID-19?

What are your views on using this with HIV, syphilis and/or gonorrhoea?

We want to get your views and invite you to join our research study:
‘Exploring community and expert perceptions of the acceptability of HIV/STI molecular analysis for prevention and control in Victoria’

We are seeking people who regularly test for HIV and other STIs or people who have had a diagnosis of HIV, syphilis or gonorrhoea to participate in an interview (30-45 minutes) and/or a group discussion (60-90 minutes) via phone, zoom or in person about your views of the use of molecular analysis in prevention and control in public health.

What is HIV/STI molecular analysis?

You can read more about molecular analysis in this resource from the US Centre for Disease Control

Our partners at the Doherty Institute and the Department of Health are exploring whether this kind of molecular analysis (also known as phylogenetic analysis) can improve public health responses to HIV and other STI outbreaks.

Also find out more about how the Doherty Institute uses genomic sequencing to track COVID-19: <https://www.doherty.edu.au/news-events/news/explainer-sars-cov-2-genomics>.

Detecting Clusters through HIV Molecular Analysis: 5 Things to Know

- 1** Molecular analysis identifies groups of HIV strains that are very similar. Because HIV evolves quickly, similar viral strains signal that HIV transmission is occurring rapidly within a common network. 
- 2** Health departments can use molecular analysis to quickly identify areas where HIV may be spreading and provide prevention and treatment services, breaking the chain of transmission. 
- 3** Molecular analysis uses laboratory data that are already generated through routine medical care after a person is diagnosed with HIV. 
- 4** Molecular analysis examines the genetics of the virus – not the person – and doesn't identify who infected whom. 
- 5** As health departments collect and analyze molecular data, they must follow state and local laws and strict CDC guidelines designed to protect data and maintain privacy and confidentiality. Personal identifying information is not shared with CDC. 

Full resource here:



For more information and expressions of interest, please scan this QR code or go to link: <https://redcap.healthinformatics.unimelb.edu.au/surveys/> and enter XH94WCMW4 or contact **Professor Louise Keogh** l.keogh@unimelb.edu.au or **Dr Jane Brophy** jane.brophy@unimelb.edu.au



This research is being carried out by the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health as part of a larger NHMRC-funded project investigating the ethical implementation of HIV molecular analysis, in partnership with the Doherty Institute, the Department of Health and community organisations.

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