

Participant Information Sheet

Dear Participant,

We are inviting you to participate in the research study entitled “Seroprevalence of Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis and Zika and risk factors for infection among long-term expatriates from non-endemic country in Thailand”

The study is being conducted by Asst. Prof. Watcharapong Piyaphanee from Faculty of Tropical Medicine and several collaborators including University of Minnesota, Chiangmai University and Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences.

You are invited in this study if you are

- 1) Male and female expatriates from the United States, Canada, Europe, Middle East, Australia and New Zealand residing in Thailand for at least one year (cumulative).
- 2) Aged ≥ 18 years
- 3) Able to read and understand English Language
- 4) Willing to participate the study and signed the informed consent

You cannot participant if you were,

- 1) Any contraindication to blood draw such as history of severe anemia
- 2) Any receipt of blood products within the last 6 months.

INFORMATION

This document is meant to provide you with the written information necessary to make a decision regarding your participation in the study. We ask that you read this document carefully. Do not hesitate to ask us if anything is unclear or if you need more information. You will have time to ask and we will answer and clarify your questions. You may take your time to think about your participation in this research. At the end of this document, if and when you accept to participate in the study, please sign and date the consent form in the indicated spaces.

CONSENT PROCESS

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary: you are free to accept or refuse to participate. If you decide to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time, without any consequences, ill-feeling or prejudice.

GENERAL BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

You are being asked to participate in a study which aims to determine the frequency of common flaviviruses (Dengue virus, Japanese encephalitis virus) infection in the expatriate population naïve to these viruses. These viruses are usually transmitted to people by mosquitoes. Majority of individuals who get infected with these viruses do not get sick.

The main objective of this study are to:

- Estimate the frequency of Dengue virus, Japanese Encephalitis virus and Zika virus among expatriates naïve to these viruses

- Identify risk factors and modifiable risk factors (exposures, behaviors, practices) for Flavivirus infections

RESEARCH PROCESS

If you agree to participate and sign informed consent form then you will be asked to answer questions about your health and daily life, such as the type of protection measures you use against mosquitoes

You will be offered to check for routine health assessment including blood pressure measurement, calculation of BMI and random blood glucose. If we detect any abnormality signs such as high blood pressure, high BMI, and high blood glucose level, we will give some advices about lifestyle modification or suggest you to get proper treatment.

We also would like to draw blood through a needle in your arm. We will draw approximately 5ml of blood for the relevant analysis.

You may take approximately 10 minutes to answer questionnaire; if a question makes you feel uncomfortable or if you don't know the answer you may skip it."

The samples collected from you will be tested to determine if there are any detectable antibodies to Dengue virus, Japanese Encephalitis virus, indicating a history of infection of these viruses. Specimens may undergo additional testing for ZIKV and other arthropod-borne infections of public health importance such as yellow fever virus, West Nile virus, Ross River virus, Chikungunya virus, or Rickettsial etiologies.

RISK AND BENEFITS OF YOUR PARTICIPATION

There is a risk that you may experience some discomfort when we take your blood. A little bit pain and small bruise may occur. Some people might feel lightheaded when they have their blood drawn. However, this is transient and does not require treatment or medical consultation.

From the collected blood, random blood sugar levels will be checked using a glucometer and informed together with the Body Mass Index (BMI) and vitals, such as (pulse rate and blood pressure measurements). If the results of the health screen are abnormal, the participants will receive counseling and be recommended for further follow up with a primary care physician.

You will not any direct benefit from participating in this study. However, you will have access to information on the means of protection against mosquitoes and on other potential modes of transmission by one of the members of the research team

The individual participant study results will not be disclosed.

COMPENSATION

You will receive 650 Baht for the travel cost reimbursement.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The main results of this research will be published, and may be presented in scientific conferences. However, your personal data will not be identifiable in any way. All study data will be accessed by a small number of researchers within the study group and will be confidential through use of a specific coding system.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND TREATMENT OF COMPUTERIZED DATA



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Your data will need to be entered into an electronic database in order for us to analyze it and answer the questions of this study. If during the course of the study, you no longer wish to participate, the study group will seek your permission to keep the data contributed up to the point at which you withdraw from the study, or to destroy all data.

INFORMATION ON YOUR SAMPLES DURING AND AFTER THIS STUDY

If there are any 'left-over' samples, we would like to ask you to allow us to use these for other studies. What we mean is, if your sample are not completely used upon completion of this study, they could be stored and used for other research studies that are looking at similar pathogens. The left-over samples will not be used for any human genetic or stem cell studies. In any future studies, your identity would remain confidential. The remaining samples will be stored at Hospital for Tropical Disease/Rajanagarinda building) and the AFRIMS and could be given, without cost, to other teams doing research.

At any time, and without consequences to your participation in the study, you may withdraw your consent for the use of your samples. This can be done directly by contacting the member of the research team who is supervising your participation in this study.

Contact person

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