

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### ASSENT TO BE PART OF A RESEARCH STUDY

**Study Title:** The Effects of Recent Stressors on Families

**Principal Investigators:** Alex Burt, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology  
Michigan State University

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Associate Professor of Psychology  
University of Michigan

#### **Overview and purpose**

We are asking you to be a part of this research study so we can learn about how the COVID-19 pandemic, and all the new rules and regulations, have impacted you. We hope that this study will help us to learn more about how this pandemic affects your and your family's development over time.

We plan to ask 1,030 twin pairs (2,060 adolescents/young adults) and their primary caregivers who participated in the study: *The Twin Study of Behavioral and Emotional Development in Children (TBED-C)* at Michigan State University *and* may have participated in the Michigan Twin Neurogenetics Survey (MTwiNS) at the University of Michigan *and* who currently live in Michigan.

We may contact you to invite you to participate in follow up surveys about the novel coronavirus in the future, depending on the evolving circumstances of the pandemic.

#### **Description of your involvement**

If you agree to be part of this study, at least one of your parents must give his or her permission. You will complete a series of questionnaires that will ask you about some experiences you may have had and how you have been feeling. The survey will take you about 30 minutes.

#### **Benefits**

You may not receive a direct benefit from participating. We hope that what we find out in this study will help us to learn more about COVID-19 stressors and impacts on families and child development.

#### **Risks and discomforts**

The main risk for this study is that the questionnaires may be time consuming and some participants may feel uncomfortable or upset talking about stress that they may be experiencing. You can skip any questions that you do not wish to answer. There is also a risk that your confidentiality may be breached. We will take responsible steps in order to protect your confidentiality.

### **Incentive to be in the study**

As a thank you for your participation you will receive a \$25 Amazon digital gift card code. If the electronic Amazon gift card is not a suitable option for you, please have your primary caregiver contact Brandi Randall (contact information provided below) to request payment by check. Importantly, we can only send you your primary caregiver your gift card or check once you, your primary caregiver and your twin have all completed the online questionnaire.

### **Confidentiality**

This research holds a Certificate of Confidentiality. We call it a CoC. Mostly, this means we can't be forced to share your answers with anyone like in a court or with police unless we have your permission. We won't share any of your answers with your twin or siblings. We won't share any of your answers with your parents. If we share any of your information, it would only be with other researchers or in reports, but these reports would never include any information that allows someone else to figure out who you are. The only other time we would disclose your information is if we suspect or learn about cases of child or elder abuse or neglect, or that you may harm yourself or others.

### **Voluntary nature of the study**

It is completely up to you whether you want to be in the study. Even if your parents say you can complete the survey, you do not have to do so. Even if you say yes, you may change your mind and stop at any time. You may also choose to not answer a question for any reason.

### **Contact information**

If you have questions about this research, including questions about the survey you and your parent can contact:

#### **Principal Investigators:**

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#### **Recruitment Coordinator:**

Brandi Randall

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If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the University of Michigan Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board, 2800 Plymouth Rd., Bldg. 520, Room 1169, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2800, (734) 936-0933 or toll free, (866) 936-0933, [irbhsbs@umich.edu](mailto:irbhsbs@umich.edu).

You can also contact the University of Michigan Compliance Hotline at 1-866-990-0111.

**If you would like to keep this form for your records, you can find it on the MSU Twin Research website, using the same link you used to access the survey. From this page you are able to download or print the form. Additionally, you can find resource packets for your county, or the county nearest to you, on the MSU Twin Research Website.**

To protect your confidentiality, please take the survey in a place where others cannot see your survey responses.

### **Assent**

By completing this online questionnaire, you are agreeing to be in the study. Be sure that we have answered your questions about the study, and you understand what you are being asked to do. You may contact us if you think of a question later.