



Dear Family Members:

Hello, my name is Dr. Roberta Woodgate. I am a Distinguished Professor and Researcher in the College of Nursing, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. I am conducting a study with a team of researchers from the University of Manitoba, as well as other organizations and hospitals in Canada and internationally. I do not know your name or any information about you or your family.

The name of our study is **Addressing the indirect and wider health impacts of COVID-19 on families of children living with disabilities**. The purpose of our study is to examine the impact of COVID-19 on the services and supports that families of children with disabilities rely on. We will develop a model of care based on the recommendations of families and service providers of ways to improve services and supports for families of children with disabilities including during times of health crises or future pandemics. The study is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus.

We are inviting families of children living with a disability to participate in the study. Your involvement in this study is strictly voluntary, and you will receive a gift card in appreciation for your participation. Families will be asked to participate in two audio recorded interview sessions. Each session will last between 1-2 hours. These sessions can take place in-person or virtually.

***In the first session:***

- The primary caregiver of your family (e.g., mother, father) will be asked to fill out a form and answer some questions about your family and the services and supports you receive.
- Your family will then be asked to participate in a family group interview to talk about your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will be asked questions about what worked well with services and supports, what did not work well, what should remain the same, and what changes should be made to services and supports in the event of another health crisis or pandemic. Examples of the types of questions that will be asked include:
  - Can you please describe the services and supports you receive for yourself? Your child? Your family?
  - What changes do you think are needed in order for current services and supports to match this ideal?

***In the second session:***

- You, as parents will be given the opportunity to participate in a graphic recording focus group session with other parents of children with disabilities. Your child with a disability will also be given the opportunity to participate in a focus group session involving other children with disabilities. During the graphic recording focus group session, an artist will translate key ideas of the interview into images and text on a large sheet of paper. The drawing (also called a graphic recording) that the artist creates will be a visual representation of the graphic recording focus group session.

Your participation in the study will take place over 5-7 weeks. Your involvement in this study, including your identity and the data collected, will be kept confidential, unless you choose to allow data that contain identifying information to be shared with others.

After the family group interview and the graphic recording focus group session are completed, we plan to apply the input from families to the design of a model of care for families of children with disabilities. All reports and products derived from this study will be shared with health care and educational professionals, community groups, policy makers, service providers and other researchers. You can also receive a brief summary of the study findings.

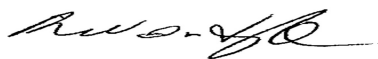
The study specifics are explained in greater detail in the consent form that will be provided to you prior to the interview, should you choose to participate.

If you are interested in our study and/or have any questions, concerns, or need additional information, please contact the research team at [ingauge@umanitoba.ca](mailto:ingauge@umanitoba.ca) or by completing the enclosed form and returning it in the enclosed stamped return envelope.

You may also contact me at 204-474-8338 or by email at [Roberta.Woodgate@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Roberta.Woodgate@umanitoba.ca).

Thank you for considering participating in our study.

Sincerely,



Dr. Roberta L. Woodgate  
Canadian Research Chair (Tier 1) in Child & Family Engagement in Health Research & Healthcare  
Professor, Child Health and Illness  
College of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences  
University of Manitoba

**Please return to IN•GAUGE in the enclosed stamp-addressed envelope.**

Yes, I am interested in participating/finding out more about this study.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_ Phone

Comments:

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