

Guidelines for Data Access

I. The Corona Immunitas Data Transfer Agreement in a Nutshell

The data transfer agreement regulates the relationship between you, as data requestor, and Corona Immunitas, the owner of the database. Below are a few key principles in plain language you need to agree to if you would like to receive data.

Condition of data sharing:

The applicant of the data agrees that the data:

- is to be used only for the academic purposes as described in the plan on the research;
- may not itself be commercialized and
- shall not be transferred to or accessed by any third party, for any purposes whatsoever, without the prior written agreement of Corona Immunitas and in compliance with the informed consent of the data subject.

Before the data transfer

- You need to submit a brief summary including the data of interest and involved parties and send it to the secretariat of Corona Immunitas (coronaimmunitasdata@sspplus.ch)
- If deemed reasonable and feasible after a first review, you will be asked to submit a full proposal. Details will be provided as necessary.
- Four times a year, the Corona Immunitas Executive Committee will review proposals for their scientific validity, overlap with already planned papers, and request further clarifications or approve a data request.
- Upon approval, you need to sign the data transfer agreement. Upon signature, the Central Data management team will contact you to discuss data selection and transfer modalities.

After the data transfer

- Privacy and data security are of highest priority. Store data on a password protected, encrypted drive (or encrypt them using 7-zip). Ensure that only authorized persons (named in the concept sheet) have access to the data. Make sure that you have regular data back-ups (which also need to be encrypted and password protected).
- Treat the data as confidential. Don't share it without permission. Protect it if you don't use it. The Central Data Management Team has the right to audit your security measures.
- Perform the analysis as outlined in your proposal. If substantial deviations are needed, inform the executive committee. Altering analytic methods, variable selections is OK, changing the topic completely or focusing on different study outcomes requires re-approval.

After completion of the analysis

- Make sure that the Corona Immunitas Study is appropriately acknowledged in the manuscript. Use the following template:
The study used data of the nationwide research program «Corona Immunitas» of the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+). Corona Immunitas is a scientific program aimed at determining the SARS-CoV-2 immunity of Switzerland's population.
www.corona-immunitas.ch / www.sspplus.ch
- Let us know about the results. We would like to take a look at the manuscript to correct factual errors concerning the study or the data and to prevent variable misinterpretations. But we will not interfere with the publication process. For details, check the EDTA par. IV.

After publication

- Send a pdf of the publication (whenever possible, open access publication) to the secretariat (coronaimmunitasdata@ssphplus.ch)
- Archive the analytic files and data for your publication. They must be made available in reasonable time and free of cost to the Corona Immunitas Executive Committee. The same privacy and safety and confidentiality rules apply as for the transferred data files. You should archive these files for 10 years.
- You are not allowed to use the archived data for other analyses or other purposes. Follow-up studies or new analyses require a new concept sheet.
- Any request for data from your publication must be proved by Corona Immunitas.

II. Overview of the process

The Executive Committee (EC) exerts control over the use of Corona Immunitas data and identifies possible overlaps in research projects and grant applications. Furthermore, the EC can initiate their own projects within their area of expertise. The EC should ensure a fair balance of authorships according to the management principles of the Corona Immunitas EC (in particular also for international collaborations).

The EC can make decisions on whether to grant access to Corona Immunitas data for specific projects. The application process for data access is open to all researchers with adequate experience and a proven track record in Medical, Health or Methods research or other areas that are relevant for the proposal (in terms of publications). The EC assigns each proposal to two expert EC members, who have reported no conflicts of interest with respect to the proposal. They write a short appraisal with a recommendation. In case of conflict of interest, the proposal should be rated by independent experts. Decisions are taken by majority vote among all present EC members.

III. Eligibility for data access

All researchers with adequate qualifications and experience in Medical, Health or Methods can submit projects to the Executive Committee of Corona Immunitas.

IV. Information to provide **at first contact**

Summary

150 words maximum.

Data

- Requested Data from Corona Immunitas
- Usage of Data