

|  |
| --- |
| ELUCIDAR study |
| Information for aged care residents and families |
|  |

## What is the ELUCIDAR study?

The Department of Health is leading a clinical trial titled ‘Effectiveness of germicidal ultraviolet Light in an Upper room Configuration In Decreasing COVID-19 in Aged-care Residential facilities (ELUCIDAR): A cluster randomised controlled trial. This study involves installing upper-room germicidal ultraviolet light equipment into the ceilings or high on the walls in residential aged care facilities.

## Why is the study being conducted?

Germicidal ultraviolet light devices have been shown in laboratory studies to successfully inactivate bacteria and viruses. An inactivated virus particle would be unable to invade and infect a human cell thus preventing infection.

Like many respiratory viruses, COVID-19 spreads from person to person through both large droplets and airborne particles.

When germicidal ultraviolet lights are installed in the upper portion of a room, just below the ceiling, they may be able to inactivate airborne viruses and bacteria that travel into the path of the UV beam due to normal air movements in the room. This allows the lights to operate continually in the top part of the room, while people can continue to safely spend time in the lower part of the room.

The Department of Health wants to assess whether these devices can reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and flu in aged care facilities.

## What are the benefits of participating?

The lights may prove very beneficial in reducing the spread of infectious diseases which travel through the air. All the facilities that participate are helping the Department of Health to understand whether this is going to be useful or not in the environment of aged care.

## How long will the study run for?

The trial will run for 12 months from when the devices are installed and turned on.

## How many aged care facilities will be participating in the trial?

Approximately 60 facilities will be participating in total. Of those 60 facilities, approximately half will have germicidal ultraviolet lights installed (they will be the ‘intervention facilities’). The other half will not have germicidal ultraviolet light installed (‘control facilities’). This is so the number of COVID-19 and flu cases can be measured and compared between the two groups to understand the effectiveness of the germicidal ultraviolet lights.

## What will happen at an intervention facility?

Facilities who are randomly allocated to the ‘intervention group’, will get germicidal ultraviolet lights early in 2024. This involves skilled contractors installing the lights in the facility in the common areas, such as kitchens, dining rooms, hallways, and staff rooms.

Germicidal ultraviolet lights will not be installed in bedrooms or bathrooms.

Intervention facilities will receive additional information for staff, families and residents about the installation process, and safety precautions.

Data will be collected from Government databases over the study period to track positive cases of COVID-19, flu and other respiratory viruses.

## What will happen at a control facility?

Germicidal ultraviolet lights will not be installed in control facilities.

Control facilities will operate as they usually would with the usual processes for infection control which are already in place.

Like intervention facilities, data will be collected over the study period to track positive cases of COVID-19, flu and other respiratory viruses.

## What will I notice when they are being installed?

Installing germicidal ultraviolet lights is similar to installing standard light fittings. You may notice members of the team visiting the areas to look at what light position is best for each room. The lights may be installed on the wall or ceiling. Only experienced electricians will be used to install the lights.

You may use the room normally when the germicidal ultraviolet lights are operating. They may have a faint light to show that they are turned on. You may notice people checking the lights from time to time.

The facility manager will be given information to share with you about the study and the UV lights being installed. You may ask any questions that you have about the germicidal ultraviolet lighting.

## What data will be collected?

The number of respiratory infections (COVID-19, flu and potentially others respiratory viruses), and related case data for each facility will be collected. Personal information or identifiable data (such as gender and age) will notbe collected for any of the residents or staff.

Additional data on the facility characteristics and operations will also be collected. This data includes residential aged care facility name and location, proportion of occupied beds, resident/staff vaccination rates, current testing protocols, ventilation systems, and any major changes throughout the project.

The Department will also be seeking resident and staff feedback about the installation of the germicidal ultraviolet lights in some of the facilities.

## How will you know if the germicidal ultraviolet lights are effective?

The purpose of the ELUCIDAR study is to assess if, and how effective the upper room germicidal ultraviolet lights are at reducing the spread of COVID-19, flu and other respiratory viruses in residential aged care facilities.

The rate of infections between the intervention and control facilities will be compared and analysed at the end of the study period.

## Does the study have ethics approval?

The Department of Health’s Human Research Ethics Committee approved the ELUCIDAR study on 7th March 2024.

If you have any feedback or complaints of an ethical nature or relating to the ethical review process, you can contact the Committee directly.

* Email: research.ethics@health.vic.gov.au
* Phone: 0498 956 722

## What will happen at the end of the trial?

At the end of the trial, the data collected throughout the study period will be analysed by research experts to determine if the germicidal ultraviolet lights are effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19, flu and other respiratory viruses in residential aged care facilities.

The outcome will be reported back to the Department of Health to guide further public health advice.

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

Your facility manager is the best person to contact in the first instance.

You can also contact Dr Michelle Delaire, Lead Researcher at the Department of Health if you have any questions about the ELUCIDAR study.

* [ELUCIDAR study](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/germicidal-ultraviolet-light-combatting-airborne-virus-transmission/elucidar-study) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/germicidal-ultraviolet-light-combatting-airborne-virus-transmission/elucidar-study>
* Email: elucidarstudy@health.vic.gov.au
* Phone: 1800 **519 722**

|  |
| --- |
| To receive this document in another format, phone 1800 519 722, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email mailto:elucidarstudy@health.vic.gov.au.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health, May 2024.Available at [Health.vic.gov.au - ELUCIDAR study](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/germicidal-ultraviolet-light-combatting-airborne-virus-transmission/elucidar-study) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/germicidal-ultraviolet-light-combatting-airborne-virus-transmission/elucidar-study> |