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| **ELUCIDAR study – updated March 2025** |
| Information for Residents and Families |
| **OFFICIAL** |

# What is the ELUCIDAR study?

The Victorian Department of Health is conducting a clinical trial called the ELUCIDAR study together with the Burnet Institute, an independent medical research institute.

ELUCIDAR stands for Effectiveness of ultraviolet Light in an Upper room Configuration In Decreasing Airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza in Residential aged care.

This study involves installing upper-room germicidal ultraviolet lights into the ceilings or high on the walls in residential aged care facilities.

# Why is the study happening?

Germicidal ultraviolet lights can inactivate bacteria and viruses in the air. If bacteria and viruses are inactivated, they cannot infect someone.

Like many viruses, COVID-19 and flu can spread between people through the air. We know that germicidal ultraviolet lights can inactivate the viruses and bacteria in laboratory studies, but we do not know how effective they are in the real-world. The Department of Health wants to assess whether these lights can reduce the spread of COVID-19, flu and other viruses, in residential aged care facilities.

It is safe for people to be in the room because the germicidal ultraviolet lights are installed up high near the ceiling and the light beam sits just below the ceiling.

# What are the benefits of being in the study?

All the residential aged care facilities taking part in the study are helping the Department of Health learn if the lights can reduce the spread of viruses that travel between people through the air.

# How long will the study run for?

The trial will run for 12 months from 15 November 2024.

# How many aged care facilities are in the trial?

61 facilities are in the study. 30 have germicidal ultraviolet lights installed (they are the ‘intervention facilities’). The other 31 facilities do not have germicidal ultraviolet lights installed (‘control facilities’). This way the number of COVID-19, flu and other virus infections can be compared to see if the lights really help in reducing the spread of these viruses.

# What will happen at an intervention facility?

Facilities randomly allocated to the ‘intervention group’ had germicidal ultraviolet lights installed between June and October 2024. Trained electricians installed the lights in places everyone uses such as living, activity and dining rooms. The lights were not installed in any bedrooms or bathrooms.

Data will be collected over the study period to track how many people have COVID-19 and the other viruses.

# What will happen at a control facility?

Germicidal ultraviolet lights were not installed in control facilities.

Control facilities will keep doing what they normally do to keep residents safe and healthy.

Like intervention facilities, infection data will be collected over the study period.

# What happened when the lights were installed?

Installing germicidal ultraviolet lights is like installing regular lights. You might have noticed some people checking the rooms to see where the lights should go. The lights have been installed high up on the walls or on ceilings by trained electricians.

You can still use the room while the germicidal ultraviolet lights are on. They have a blue light to show they are working. Electricians will sometimes visit to check the lights.

# What data will be collected?

The Department of Health, together with researchers from the Burnet Institute, will track how many people have COVID-19, flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections. The researchers will collect some information about people, like gender and age, but no names or birthdates. This means they won’t know who the information is about.

The researchers will also collect information about the facilities where people live. This will include the facility name and location, how many beds are being used, how many people have been vaccinated, how the facility tests for viruses, the facility's ventilation systems, and any major changes throughout the project.

They will also collect some data when a resident is admitted to hospital. This will include the dates of each hospital stay, the reason for admission to hospital and the date of death if someone dies. This data will be linked to residential aged care facilities, to allow the researchers to know if they are a resident of either a control or intervention facility.

In some facilities, they will be asking people what they think about the germicidal ultraviolet lights.

The researchers have permission from the Department of Health’s Human Research Ethics Committee to collect this information from the facilities taking part in the trial.

**How will you keep my information private?**

The researchers have approved methods to keep everyone's information safe and private. These methods have been explained to and approved by the Department of Health’s Human Research Ethics Committee.

The most important thing is that they take out names and birthdates before they collect any information about the residents. They will give everyone a special number instead, so the researchers don't know who the information belongs to. This number will be assigned by a secure computer system.

This special number also lets the researchers connect the information they collect with other health information (like hospital visits) without ever knowing a resident’s name. This is done by people who are experts at keeping data safe. You can learn more about this here: [https://vahi.vic.gov.au/ourwork/data-linkage/about.](https://vahi.vic.gov.au/ourwork/data-linkage/about) All the information is kept safe in a secure computer system at the Burnet Institute.

# How will you know if the germicidal ultraviolet lights work?

The purpose of the ELUCIDAR study is to find out if germicidal ultraviolet lights can help stop COVID-19, flu and other similar viruses from spreading in residential aged care facilities.

At the end of the study, they will compare how many people were infected with these viruses in the intervention and the control facilities.

# Does the study have ethics approval?

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

The Department of Health was given approval to collect the information described in this Factsheet on 11 March 2025.

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](mailto:research.ethics@health.vic.gov.au)
* Phone: 0498 956 722

# What will happen at the end of the trial?

At the end of the study, experts at the Burnet Institute will look at all the information to see if the germicidal ultraviolet lights helped stop the spread of COVID-19, flu and other similar viruses. De-identified study data will be kept for 15 years after the last publication from the study. After this time period, it will be safely deleted. The study results will be shared with the Department of Health to help give better health advice in the future.

A summary of the study findings will be provided for residents and families and will be available from facility staff. The Department of Health will also publish a report on the ELUCIDAR Study webpage and share this with facilities that were part of the study.

# 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, Co-Principal Investigator at the Department of Health if you have any questions about the ELUCIDAR study.

* Website: [www.health.vic.gov.au/germicidal-ultraviolet-light-combatting-airborne-virus-transmission/elucidar-study](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/germicidal-ultraviolet-light-combatting-airborne-virus-transmission/elucidar-study)
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