



16.10.2020

### Participate and help improving understanding of the impacts of the corona epidemic on health and well-being.

In 2017 you were invited to participate in the FinHealth 2017 Study. We are now inviting you to respond to a questionnaire survey which is sent to all those who were invited to the FinHealth Study in 2017. The FinHealth Follow-up Study is implemented by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL).

**thl.fi/finterveysseuranta**

**User id:**

**Password:**

**Respond to the questionnaire online, by filling in a paper form or through a phone interview. Take part and influence!**

### Why is the survey being conducted?

The purpose of the FinHealth 2017 Study is to collect up-to-date information on the health and well-being of adult residents in Finland, and on the factors influencing their health and well-being. Through the follow-up study we aim to find out how these factors have been affected by the coronavirus epidemic. The information provided by the survey will be used to investigate measures needed for the prevention, management and treatment of epidemics such as the corona virus (COVID-19) epidemic. The survey will help to develop procedures and recommendations which can be used to reduce the burden caused by the epidemic.

### How to respond to the questionnaire?

You may fill in the questionnaire online at **thl.fi/finterveysseuranta** using the respondent codes included at the top of this letter. After this, you can select the language version suitable for you and start responding. If you have not filled out the online questionnaire, we will send you a paper questionnaire by mail. In case we do not receive a response to the paper questionnaire we will attempt to contact you by phone. Participating in the study is voluntary.

Even if you did not take part in the FinHealth Study in 2017 we kindly ask that you respond to this questionnaire. Your response is important in getting comprehensive information on people's health, well-being and experiences during the corona epidemic.

### How do I participate and how long does it take to fill in the questionnaire?

It takes around 15–20 minutes to respond to the survey.

We may later invite you to give a blood sample as part of the study but responding to this questionnaire does not require it. Blood sampling will require a separate consent.



## Participation is safe

The persons invited to the FinHealth 2017 Study have been drawn by random sampling from the data of the Population Information System. Address information has been updated in the autumn of 2020 from data provided by Digital and Population Data Services Agency. The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare is a public authority that stores and processes data in keeping with its secrecy obligation and in compliance with the data protection regulations. All persons involved in processing your data have a duty of non-disclosure. Individual respondents cannot be identified in the findings. For more information on the survey, see [thl.fi/finterveysseuranta](https://thl.fi/finterveysseuranta) or ask for more information by email or by phone. This survey has been accepted by the Ethics Committee of the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa as being part of the FinHealth 2017 Study.

For the research data, THL will link your data from the FinHealth 2017 Study and your responses to this questionnaire with register data obtained from various statistical authorities. These include, for example, data on medical visits and treatment of illnesses such as the coronavirus disease, among others.

## Thank you for your participation!

### Seppo Koskinen

MD, Research Professor

Person in charge of the FinHealth 2017 Study

### Päivikki Koponen

Research Manager

#### More information on the study:

- online at [thl.fi/finterveysseuranta](https://thl.fi/finterveysseuranta)
- by e-mail at [finterveysseuranta@thl.fi](mailto:finterveysseuranta@thl.fi)
- by phone (toll-free number): 080095332 on weekdays at 8-16
- for a privacy notice containing information about the processing of personal data in the survey, see [thl.fi/finterveysseuranta](https://thl.fi/finterveysseuranta)