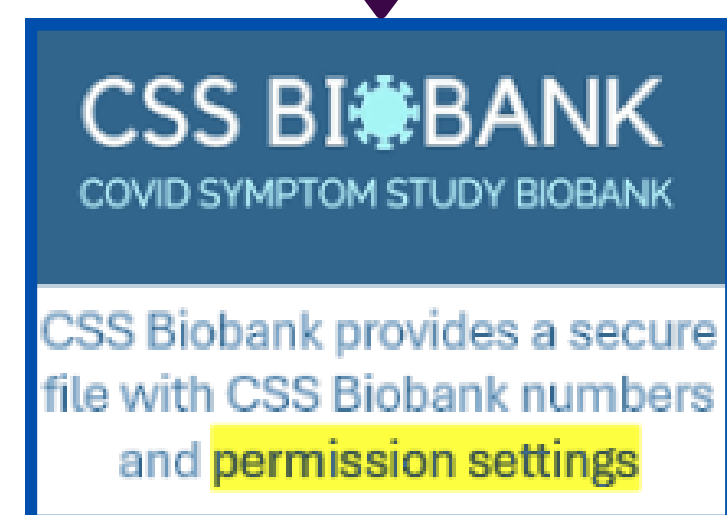


How health record linkage works, how data is kept safe and secure, and what this means for participants.

This video shows how the **UK LLC links data**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXnHc8R3UW0>

If you have any questions, please contact the study team at CSS Biobank: <https://cssbiobank.com/contact-us>



The CSS Biobank study team will create **two sets of data**:

1 One set contains **personal details** (like name, date of birth, and NHS number) and **permission information**.



2 The other contains **CSS Biobank study data** (the data we want to link to health records such as questionnaire data) but no personal details.



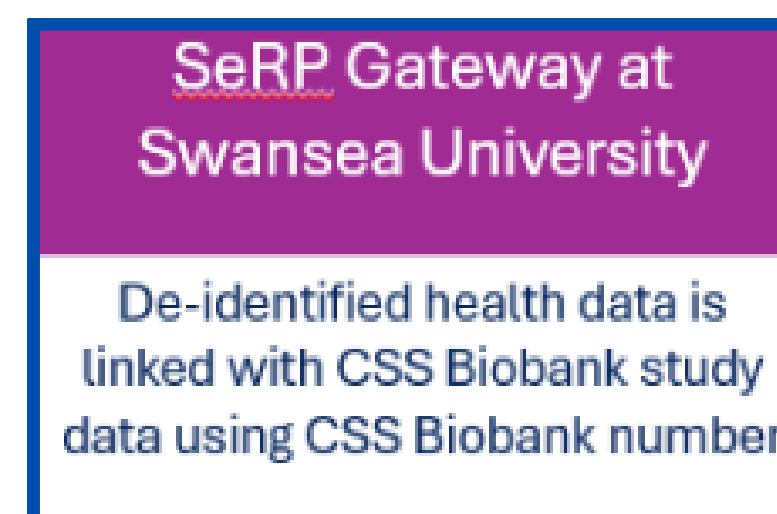
Both sets of data include **unique CSS Biobank numbers** so they can be matched with health record data.



- The file with personal details is **securely sent to the NHS** to find health records. The CSS Biobank number is **encrypted** to protect identities.



- Once the NHS has found health records, **personal details** (name, NHS number, etc.) **are removed**. These identifying details are **stored securely** and **not shared**.



- The remaining health information (now de-identified) is **securely sent** to the Secure eResearch Platform (**SeRP**) Gateway at Swansea University, where it is **linked to the CSS Biobank study data** using the CSS Biobank number.



All data in the UK LLC is de-identified and subject to **Five Safe's governance principles**. The Five Safes is a well-established framework used to manage and govern access to **sensitive data** in a way that **protects privacy** while enabling **valuable research**.
<https://ukllc.ac.uk/confidentiality>



Once linked, the **de-identified dataset** is stored in a **Trusted Research Environment** (TRE) by the UK LLC. A TRE is a highly secure computer system where:



- Only **approved researchers** can access the data
- Data **cannot be copied or removed** from the TRE
- The data in the TRE **does not include** names, addresses, dates of birth, NHS numbers, or any other **personal identifiers** (like the names of hospitals).
- Researchers will **never be able to identify participants** from the linked data.