



Important Information about COVID-19 and Research Participation

At the University of Central Florida our primary responsibility related to research is to protect the safety of our research participants.

COVID-19 refers to the Coronavirus that is being spread across people in our communities. We need to provide you with important information about COVID-19, and to tell you about ways your study participation might change because of COVID-19 related risk.

If you are considering joining a study at this time or are currently enrolled in a study, it is important that you consider the following information to determine if study participation is right for you at this time.

How is COVID-19 spread? COVID-19 is a respiratory virus spread by respiratory droplets, mainly from person-to-person. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another (less than 6 feet). It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object (such as a doorknob or counter surface) that has the virus on it, then touching their mouth, nose or eyes.

Can COVID-19 be prevented? Current ways to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 include “social distancing” which is a practice to decrease the potential for direct exposure to others who may have been exposed to COVID-19, for example by avoiding large gatherings or refraining from shaking hands with others. It is important to understand that since study participation may include increased travel outside of your home and increased exposure to others within a research site it may increase your exposure to COVID-19. Currently, there is no vaccination to prevent COVID-19 infection.

What are the risks of COVID-19? For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. While we are still learning about this virus, the information we have right now suggests that about 3 out of every 100 people who are infected might die from the virus.

Who is most at risk?

- Persons over 65 years of age
- Persons with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- Persons with diabetes
- Persons with serious heart conditions
- Persons with severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher)
- Persons with liver disease
- Persons with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Immunocompromised individuals (cancer treatment, bone marrow/organ recipients, those with chronic immunodeficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications)

How could your participation in this research change as a result of COVID-19? There are several ways we try to minimize your risk. If possible, we limit the number of times you have to come

to a research site. We will ask every research participant if they have the symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with anyone who has or had COVID-19 using the following questions:

Health Screening Questions:

1. **IN THE PAST 24 HOURS**, have you had any of the following symptoms? **YES NO**

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of Breath
- Loss of smell or taste
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Congestion or runny nose

If **"YES"**, **DO NOT participate in this study.**

2. Have you **TRAVELED INTERNATIONALLY** in the past 14 days? **YES NO**

If **"YES"**, **DO NOT participate in this study.**

3. Have you **TRAVELED DOMESTICALLY (U.S)** to areas of high COVID-19 prevalence (e.g., New York City, south Florida, etc.) in the past 14 days? **YES NO**

If **"YES"**, **DO NOT participate in this study.**

4. Have you had **CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT** with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days (per criteria below)? **YES NO**

- a. Within 6 feet for prolonged period of time
- b. In direct contact with infectious secretions (been coughed/sneezed upon, etc.)

If **"YES"**, **DO NOT participate in this study.**

During your research visits, we try to reduce the time you are exposed to other people as much as possible. You will be asked to wear a cloth face covering upon arrival to the research location and during most, if not all, of the research procedures. Please let the study team know if you need a face covering provided to you or if you can bring your own. Your study team will review the Informed Consent Form with you and discuss if there are any study procedures during which you will be asked to briefly remove the covering or use a different type of face covering.

If you are suspected to be positive for COVID-19, there may be last minute changes to how research procedures are performed [such as a change from an in-person visit to a telephone call] or cancellations of research tests or procedures to ensure your safety. It is even possible that your research procedures will be put on hold or stopped because of COVID-19.

The information related to risks of COVID-19 changes every day. The leaders at UCF are monitoring these risks and deciding how these risks should change our research. If you have questions about COVID-19 and your participation in research, please talk to your study team.

You will find a hotline to use to report any concerns you have with this study related to COVID-19 [here](#).

Please contact the principal investigator of this study if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive within two weeks of your study participation.

Adapted with permission from the Johns Hopkins University.