

MSU COVID-19 Considerations for In-Person Interactions with Research Participants

Principal Investigator Responsibility

- The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for implementing and monitoring of COVID-19 control strategies and assuring that the research team has appropriate staffing, resources, and training to support the in-person interactions with research participants.

MSU and Local Requirements

- All in-person interactions with research participants by MSU employees, MSU students, or agents of MSU must follow current COVID-19 university requirements and as applicable, any local site requirements including facility (e.g., school, hospital) and city, county, state, or country requirements.
- The MSU Returning to On-Site Work framework plans completed by the major administrative unit replace the MSU Human Research Plan.
- The MSU Community Compact applies to researchers, participants, and those who accompany participants to the in-person research. The PI is expected to educate the research team regarding the Compact and to promote compliance in the conduct of the study. <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/msu-community-compact/>
- Researchers will obtain any necessary university, facility, or local approvals to conduct the activity (e.g., travel).
- Please note that if the research is conducted in Michigan, there are still restrictions to indoor gathering sizes under the June 1, 2021, Gatherings and Face Mask Order.

COVID-19 Health Screening, Use of Masks, and Social Distancing

- If use of a face mask is required, removal of the face mask for research procedures can only occur if permitted by current university or local requirements. Visit <https://hrpp.msu.edu/COVID-19/index.html> for more information or contact MSU Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) with questions.
- Face masks need to be made available to participants and any individual accompanying the participant.
- Review the table at the end of the document for current requirements related to health screening, use of face masks, and social distancing. Please note that requirements can change quickly; monitor the MSU Together We Will website for current requirements: <https://msu.edu/together-we-will>

Additional COVID-19 Safety Precautions

- Consider whether additional COVID-19 safety precautions (e.g., use of additional PPE, location designed to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission, social distancing, reduced wait time, limits to the number of individuals who accompany a participant) are necessary based on your specific research study to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Consult with EHS when needed.
- Continue to promote good hand hygiene (e.g., availability of hand sanitizer or hand washing).
- Disinfection and cleaning should follow current university requirements and as applicable, any local site requirements.

MSU COVID-19 Information Sheet for Research Participants

- All participants will be provided the MSU COVID-19 Information Sheet for Research Participants. The document will be provided to the participant before arriving at the research location when possible. <https://hrpp.msu.edu/COVID-19/covid-forms.html>

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Health Screening Failure or Notification of Positive COVID-19 Test of Research Participants

- Any participant who does not pass a health screening may not participate in the in-person research without additional approval from the University Physician.
- Should someone in your research group test positive for COVID-19 or if you are notified that a participant or any other individual present for the in-person interaction tested positive for COVID-19, contact the University Physician (Tel: 517-353-8933; email: uphys@msu.edu). Also, contact MSU EHS for guidance regarding cleaning and disinfection.
- If a researcher tests positive and a participant is to be tested and there is a charge that the university becomes responsible for, the PI's department and/or college may be responsible for the test expenses in the event that this is not covered by a study sponsor.

Training

- All researchers must complete the MSU COVID-19 training. <https://ehs.msu.edu/covid-19/index.html>
- The PI is responsible for assuring that all members of the research team are trained and knowledgeable on the COVID-19 safety precautions needed to conduct in-person human research, including any study specific requirements, and documenting this training (e.g., who was provided training, what training, and when).

IRB Modifications

- You may need to submit a modification to the IRB for in-person interactions (e.g., non-exempt study only approved interactions conducted online). Visit the MSU HRPP Covid-19 website for more information. <https://hrpp.msu.edu/COVID-19/index.html>

Collaborators

- Collaborators under the oversight of their own organization (employees or agents of a non-MSU organization) must comply with their own organizational requirements.
- Collaborators need to obtain the appropriate approvals at their organization prior to any in-person interaction.

Research Continuity

- If the in-person interaction needs to be paused or additional safety precautions are required (e.g., increased occurrence of COVID-19), consider the impact to participants, and if any harm to participants could occur, study specific ways to mitigate harm.

Concerns

- Concerns about COVID-19 safety precautions should be reported to the PI, who is then responsible for either addressing reported concerns or working with other MSU individuals to address the concerns when needed, e.g., building contacts, MSU EHS.
- Concerns about COVID-19 safety precautions may also be reported to the MSU Misconduct Hotline (1-800-763-0764 or <https://misconduct.msu.edu>)

Resources

- Visit MSU's website, How to sign up to receive a vaccination, for resources on how to sign up for a vaccine. <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/covid19-vaccine/vaccine-signup.html>
- Visit <https://hrpp.msu.edu/COVID-19/index.html> for more detailed guidance, including FAQs.

MSU COVID-19 Considerations for In-Person Interactions with Research Participants

COVID-19 Health Screening, Use of Masks, and Social Distancing		
For In-Person Research that Takes Place On MSU Campus or Property Governed by MSU		
	Health Screening	Use of Face Masks and Social Distancing
MSU Employees	MSU Spartan Health Screening Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fully vaccinated individuals can enter indoor spaces without a face mask, except when in a health care setting where patients may be present. ○ Those who are not vaccinated or decline to answer the vaccination status question must continue wearing a face mask indoors and physically distance from others, with limited exceptions. ○ A face mask must be worn in a health care setting where patients may be present. • A face mask is not needed in outdoor settings.
MSU Students		
Agents of MSU		
Research Participants or Individual(s) Who Accompany a Research Participant		
For In-Person Research that Takes Place Another Facility or Property Governed by Another Institution		
	Health Screening	Use of Face Masks and Social Distancing
MSU Employees	MSU Spartan Health Screening Required, plus any local site requirement	Local site requirement
MSU Students		
Agents of MSU		
Research Participants or Individual(s) Who Accompany a Research Participant	Local site requirement	
For In-Person Research that Takes Place Off-Site Elsewhere		
	Health Screening	Use of Face Masks and Social Distancing
MSU Employees	MSU Spartan Health Screening Required	Local site requirement (e.g., city, county, state, country) or in absence of a local site requirement, MSU requirement for on campus or property governed by MSU (to the extent feasible).
MSU Students		
Agents of MSU		
Research Participants or Individual(s) Who Accompany a Research Participant	MSU COVID-19 Research Participant Screening OR MSU Spartan Health Screening Required (to the extent feasible)	