

Guidelines for Human Subjects Research (September 2020)

1. Researchers should not include study participants who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the [CDC](#).
2. **Prior to Study Participants Coming to Campus**
 - Study participants must sign an Acknowledgment Form for Human Subjects Participants, that includes contact information for contact tracing purposes.
 - Researchers must contact the study participant by phone the day before the in-person visit to confirm:
 - The details of the visit, including that the study participant must wear a cloth face covering, maintain physical distance (if feasible), and wash their hands frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - How the researcher has set up the in-person visit to minimize direct contact between the researcher and the study participant.
 - The study participant is not experience any COVID-19-like symptoms (fever (100.0 and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
 - The study participant has not had “close contact” with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. “Close contact” means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, while that person was symptomatic.
 - The study participant has not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official, or as required by [Massachusetts’ travel order](#).
 - Designate a minimum number of researchers needed to conduct the in-person visit, with time limitations and minimal personnel density.
3. **On the Day of the In-Person Visit**
 - Researchers must conduct their daily self-check prior to arriving on campus and stay home if they are sick.
 - Researchers must meet the study participant outside the building and escort the study participant throughout the building following physical distancing guidelines. Student participants must be escorted at all times.
 - Researchers must confirm with the study participant upon their arrival that the study participant is not experiencing any COVID-19-like symptoms, has

not had “close contact” with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19, and has not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine.

4. **Avoid any direct contact** between researchers and study participants, if feasible.
 - Follow physical distancing guidelines (6 feet), except as necessary to complete required research procedures.
 - If physical distancing is not possible due to the nature of the research, interactions with study participants must be brief (up to 15 minutes). Interactions at less than six-foot distance require a surgical face mask for study participants, and surgical mask, goggles, face shield, and gloves for researchers. If the researcher and study participant will have direct physical contact, the researcher should don a gown.
5. **Always wear a cloth face covering** (or the appropriate PPE required by the research) when in the building or lab. All researchers and study participants must wear the appropriate face covering at all times. WPI will provide a face covering for study participants if they do not have one when they arrive.
6. **Wash hands frequently.** Researchers and study participants must perform an extended and thorough soap-and-water hand washing (or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol) upon entry into and prior to exiting from the lab, on a regular basis during lab occupancy, and before, during, and after any interactions.
7. **Clean and disinfect the lab, shared surfaces, shared instruments, heavy transit areas, and high-touch surfaces** pursuant to EHS guidance on cleaning and disinfecting laboratories [here](#) before use, in between each encounter, and at the end of the day.