

## Penn IRB Required Precautions for In-Person Engagement with Research Participants

All Penn researchers are expected to follow their associated [School's research resumption plans](#) as well as the [University's COVID-19 Response Plan](#), which is based upon current guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Public Health, and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. IRB requirements are outlined below:

- Remote consent procedures should be followed whenever possible to minimize the spread of infection. Please follow the Remote Consent guidance for your associated School posted on <https://irb.upenn.edu>
- Participants should be informed of potential risks of in-person contact related to COVID-19. Teams may use the [COVID-19 Informational Sheet](#). Please follow the associated and remote consent guidance for your associated School linked above for approved methods of sharing this document to protect confidentiality.
- **Symptom Screening:** Participants must complete a [Symptom Questionnaire](#) both 24 hours **prior to** an in-person visit and **at the time** of the visit. To facilitate this, a symptom questionnaire is being released for research teams who do not have access to Penn Chart. For study teams that utilize PennChart, this questionnaire will be sent in advance of visits via MyPennMedicine (MPM) or text message and will be re-administered by security and/or front desk staff.

**Scoring Guidance:** Participants should be directed to remain at home or return home when they:

- Report new difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, OR
- Report new cough, OR
- Report **at least 2** of the other symptoms, OR
- Respond Yes to Question 2

**The in-person visit may proceed when ALL the following conditions have been met:** 1) at least 3 days after resolution of fever [off fever reducing medications like acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen] and improvement in respiratory symptoms; **AND** 2) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms started.

If a participant has a member of his/her household or has had a close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, the participant should be directed to stay home, and the research visit re-scheduled for at least 14-days later to allow the participant to self-quarantine.

- Participants are required to wear a facemask when entering a campus building and during the research visit. Exemptions may be granted as appropriate. If an exemption is requested or research procedures require the removal of a face mask, please consult with EHRS on other necessary precautions.
- **Temperature Checks**
  - Penn Medicine: Participant's temperature will be taken at the point of entry to any Penn Medicine campus building. Participants with a temperature greater than 100.3 will not be permitted to enter the building.\*
  - Non Penn Medicine: Participants should be asked to take their temperature prior to leaving their homes. Participants with temperature greater than 100.3 should be directed to remain at home. Studies where staff may be exposed to a high volume of participants over time are encouraged to consider initiating temperature screenings of participants upon arrival, when feasible.
- Ensure that low population density is maintained and that physical distancing of at least 6-feet from others is maintained by participants. Please follow posted physical distancing instructions within each School or Center facility.
- Participants should be encouraged to practice frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Minimize the length of interactions with participants. Likewise, allow adequate time in between participant visits to thoroughly disinfect the research area, including all associated equipment, etc., and must ensure that this disinfection occurs prior to anyone else utilizing that space, including research participants. Common spaces should be frequently cleaned and disinfected.\*

\*As applicable: Contact housekeeping to clean and disinfect the surfaces in the areas where the probable or confirmed COVID-19 case spent time. For more information review the [University's COVID-19 Response Plan](#) and contact EHRS with any questions: (215) 898-4453 or [ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu](mailto:ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu).