



Updated Covid-19 Guidance for Conducting In-Person Study Visits

September 9, 2022

The Division of Research follows [Texas A&M COVID-19 Protocols](#) for minimizing the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Investigators remain responsible for implementing and monitoring the changes to COVID-19 control strategies including recommendations to implement protective measures for human research participants coming on campus for in-person research study visits.

The Division of Research's IRB Office currently recommends the following:

- Pre-screening research participants and any individual that accompanies the participant is recommended when local transmission levels are high or as otherwise directed by [Texas A&M COVID-19 Protocols](#). When community transmissions levels are medium or low, prescreening can be implemented at the discretion of the investigator.
- Investigators choosing to implement COVID-19 Screening may direct participants to the CDC website for the [Coronavirus Self-Checker | CDC](#) and for [Symptoms of COVID-19 | CDC](#).
- Inform participants that their visit will be rescheduled if they have any symptoms listed on the [Coronavirus Self-Checker | CDC](#) that are not explained by another condition. Participants that do not pass the screening may be re-screened after 10 days.
- Inform individuals coming on campus of what to expect regarding the current [Texas A&M COVID-19 Protocols](#).
- When [Texas A&M COVID-19 Protocols](#) state that masks are not required, it is recommended that individuals wear a mask during study visits in areas where distancing is not possible or when local community transmission levels are high.
- It is not necessary to submit an amendment to the IRB for COVID-19 screening procedures because this screening is not a research procedure. COVID-19 screening is considered a public health activity implemented to minimize the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.
- However, investigators proposing to list COVID-19 vaccination and/or testing as part of the Inclusion/Exclusion criteria must provide scientific justification to the IRB in order to add this requirement to any research study.

Please contact the IRB office at irb@tamu.edu if you have any questions regarding this guidance.

Resources:

- [CDC: COVID-19 GUIDANCE](#)
- [BRAZOS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT](#)
- [DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES](#)