

Research Participant COVID-19 Information Sheet

Introduction

Saint Joseph's University (SJU) prioritizes the health and safety of research participants and research staff. This document describes measures SJU is taking to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and subsequent illness.

	<p>Risk of COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated. Please carefully consider whether you are comfortable participating, particularly if you or someone in your home is at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 (e.g., is an older adult or has underlying health conditions).</p> <p>For information about how COVID-19 spreads and what to expect if you get sick, please review information provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or Pennsylvania Department of Public Health (PADPH), or consult with your health care provider. Links to CDC and PADPH are available at the end of this document.</p> <p>Remember, PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY. You may decline or stop participating at any time.</p>
---	--

SJU Risk Mitigation Steps

Healthy Research Spaces

SJU employees and research staff are expected to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if they are sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Research staff may not be involved in face-to-face interactions with research participants if they:

- have current symptoms of COVID-19,
- tested positive within the past 10 days, or
- have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or
- previously had symptoms, until symptoms have improved, 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms, and no fever for 3 days.
- engaged in activities placing them at high risk of exposure (international travel, attending large gathering, etc.) in the past 14 days.

SJU research spaces, touch points/surfaces, equipment, and materials are cleaned and disinfected before your visit. Please minimize unnecessary touching of surfaces and equipment, and carefully follow instructions given by researchers.

Researchers and participants must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before interacting. Hand washing/sanitizing may occur frequently during long visits or if there is contact between participants and research staff (e.g., applying sensors, blood draws, etc.).

Physical Distancing

Keeping space between yourself and others reduces potential exposure. Please follow all instructions provided by the research team regarding arrival times and how to enter and exit the research setting.

To facilitate physical distancing of at least 6 feet, research staff will take the following steps, as appropriate for the study and research space:

- Arrange spaces to support 6-foot physical distancing.
- Stagger arrivals and departure of research participants.
- Minimize the research staff present to those necessary to safely and effectively carry out the study.
- Minimize frequency and duration of physical contact to only that necessary to carry out the research.

Face Coverings

Researchers and participants are REQUIRED to wear face coverings whenever two or more persons are present in the research space. Face coverings are strongly recommended at all times during your visit.

Face coverings will be provided to research participants if they do not have their own.

Research Participant Health

DO NOT COME TO YOUR RESEARCH VISIT IF YOU FEEL ILL OR HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS. You may reschedule your visit by contacting the research team using information provided on your informed consent document.

COVID-19 symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include:

- Fever or Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list is provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC updates symptoms as it learns more about COVID-19.

You will be asked questions about your COVID-19 symptoms or exposure prior to arriving for your visit or before beginning research activities. This information is used only to verify whether it is safe for you to participate.

Your responses will not be retained.

You may not attend a face-to-face study visit if you:

- have current symptoms of COVID-19, or
- had COVID-19 symptoms within the past 10 days, or

- tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, or
- have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or
- engaged in activities placing you at high risk of exposure (international travel, attending large gathering, etc.) in the past 14 days.

Reporting COVID-19 Illness or Infections

If you test positive for COVID-19 within 10 days of your study visit, please report this information to the SJU Public Safety and Security at (610) 660-1111.

Alignment with Local, State, and Federal Guidance

SJU aligns COVID-19 plans and procedures with the local orders and ordinance of the City of Philadelphia and Montgomery County and guidance from the State of Pennsylvania and Board of Trustees. Plans and procedures follow science-based guidance and incorporate recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Health (PADPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, as does our knowledge and understanding of the virus and its effects. SJU will continue to update its plans, policies, and procedures as appropriate to the situation at hand.

Resources

For information about COVID-19 and current federal and state guidance, see the following links:

[Saint Joseph's University COVID-19 Response Information](#)
[Pennsylvania Department of Public Health](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)