

# Research Participant COVID-19 Information Sheet

## Introduction

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Iowa State University prioritizes the health and safety of research participants and research staff. This document describes Iowa State’s COVID-19 practices and what you can expect as a research participant.

	<p><b>Risk of COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.</b> 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>Remember, <b>PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY.</b> You may decline or stop participating at any time.</p>
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## COVID-19 Vaccination Status

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COVID-19 vaccination is strongly encouraged, but NOT required for Iowa State employees or students. This means those you interact with during the study may not be fully-vaccinated. Additionally, vaccination status is private, and researchers are not authorized to collect or maintain information regarding their research team’s vaccination status; therefore, researchers cannot share with you whether research staff have been vaccinated. **Please carefully consider whether you are comfortable participating, particularly if you or someone in your home is not fully vaccinated.**

Vaccination is not required to participate in any Iowa State activities, including research. Therefore, researchers will not ask you to disclose whether you have vaccinated, unless vaccination status is directly related to the aims of the research.

## Risk Mitigation

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### Stay Home If You Are Sick

**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. Contact information is provided on the informed consent form for the study.

Iowa State employees and research staff are expected to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if they are sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

## Face Coverings

In accordance with Iowa Board of Regents directives, face masks are *optional* for Iowa State employees, students, and campus visitors. However, face masks may be required in research laboratories. The research team will inform you if face masks are required during your study visit(s).

Researchers and research participants must wear face masks if required by an off-campus research site. The research team will inform you if face masks are required.

Individuals are strongly encouraged to wear face masks to protect themselves and others.

## Research Site COVID-19 Policies

Researchers will follow Iowa State University policies related to COVID-19.

If the research takes place at a location that is not affiliated with Iowa State University, researchers will follow the COVID-19 policies and procedures required by Iowa State and those at your site. When policies and procedures differ, researchers will follow the most protective practices.

## Resources

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

[Iowa State University COVID-19 Information](#)  
[Iowa State University COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ](#)  
[Iowa Department of Public Health](#)  
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)