Important Information about COVID-19 and Research Participation

At Binghamton University, the protection of research participants is of utmost importance, which is why additional information regarding COVID-19 is being provided to you. COVID-19 refers to a Coronavirus that is spread between people in our communities. We need to tell you about ways your study participation might change because of COVID-19 related risk.

If you are considering joining a study at this time or are currently enrolled in a study, it is important that you consider the following information to determine if study participation is right for you.

How is COVID-19 spread? COVID-19 is a respiratory virus spread by respiratory droplets, primarily from person-to-person. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another (less than 6 feet). It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object (such as a doorknob or counter surface) that has the virus on it, then touching their mouth, nose or eyes.

Can COVID-19 be prevented? Current ways to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 include social distancing, wearing a face covering, hand washing, and use of hand sanitizers to decrease the potential for direct exposure to others who may have been exposed to COVID-19. It is important to understand that study participation may increase your exposure to others and your exposure to COVID-19. At this time there is no vaccination to prevent COVID-19 infection.

What are the risks of COVID-19? COVID-19 can affect anyone, and the disease can cause symptoms that are varying and can range from none to leading to death. Some people may be more likely to have severe illness than others because they have characteristics or medical conditions that increase their risk. Examples include older aged individuals or those having certain underlying medical conditions. You should familiarize yourself with these conditions, and if you have any such condition, you should not participate in in-person research.

Mitigations to address COVID-19? There are several actions that Binghamton University researchers will take to try to minimize your risk related to COVID including the following:

- Eliminating/limiting in-person contact to the extent possible. If possible, research teams will limit the number of times you have to come to a research site.
- Selecting study sites that allow for better social distancing.
- Online screening of study subjects to evaluate health and potential risk for COVID-exposure before their study visit. If you have any symptoms of illness, you should discuss them with a healthcare provider and the study visit will be postponed until you are symptom free for 14 days.
- Daily screening of study team members to evaluate health and potential risk for COVID-exposure before their engagement. A daily log including contact information of entry and exit to the research site by study team members will be maintained. These logs will only
be used in the event a study team member is found to test positive for COVID to allow for contact tracing.

- Study appointments will be scheduled to avoid overlap/contact with other study subjects and will be conducted one-on-one.
- You will be encouraged to text or call the research team when you arrive for an appointment so that a researcher may greet you and minimize time spent in waiting areas; a phone number to do this will be provided.
- Social distancing of 6 feet apart will be maintained during in-person research activities (i.e. interviews, computer activities, observations).
- Facial coverings are required to be worn by both study team members and you during in-person interactions. You should put on a facial covering before arriving for your visit. If you arrive and are not already wearing a facial covering, one will be provided to you by the research team.
- Research procedure areas, data collection areas, and equipment will be carefully cleaned and disinfected prior to and following use by study team members and/or study subjects. This process includes a regular wipe down of shared research equipment and spaces (e.g. desk and table tops, chairs, keyboard/mouse, tablets, clipboards, pens, door handles) after each visit plus a wipe down of shared research equipment and spaces at the end of the day.
- If you wish to further wipe down an area you come in contact with, you will be provided with disinfectant wipes.
- If you use a shared piece of equipment (e.g., keyboard, mouse, touch screen), you will be offered hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol, or have access to a sink for hand-washing. Gloves will also be available and are an option to use during a study visit. Alternatively, the shared equipment may be shielded with a disposable covering.

The information related to risks of COVID-19 changes every day. This is being monitored so that the most current information is being provided to you through the research teams. If you have specific questions regarding your participation in research, please talk to the research team you are working with or contact Assistant VP for Research Compliance Nancy Lewis at nlewis@binghamton.edu or 607-777-3532.

Adapted from the Johns Hopkins University Human Research Protection Program and the CDC website