College of Charleston Human Research Participant COVID Safety Notification

This Safety Notification is intended to provide context for a conversation with prospective participants about what College of Charleston researchers are doing to protect both research participants and staff. This notification should be provided to participants prior to data collection and can be placed online, e-mailed, or shared via phone. A hard copy of this Notification may be provided as an addendum to the informed consent document or upon request by the participant.

Researchers at the College of Charleston, both on and off-site, will do everything reasonably possible to make sure you stay safe while participating in research studies. College of Charleston has created internal guidance to assist research team members in minimizing risk of transmission of COVID-19 in research spaces and in the community. We appreciate your participation in our study and willingness to abide by any new guidelines.

Risks associated with COVID-19 infection are well known, and we know that the disease can be obtained through close contact with someone who is sick or who has the virus but is not showing any symptoms. While we have done everything possible to reduce transmission of COVID-19, we cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed to COVID-19 during your research visit. Risks of becoming infected with COVID-19 are now part of our daily life.

Please let a research team member know immediately if you experience any symptoms and/or are diagnosed with COVID-19 up to 14 days after any study visit. In addition, please notify us if someone in your household has shown symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19 after your visit.

Remember that your participation in research is completely voluntary. Let us know if you are generally uncomfortable with any of the guidelines.

What are we doing to protect you?

All research team members are responsible for following College of Charleston guidelines on self-assessment screenings and appropriate testing to ensure that they are not showing any symptoms of COVID-19 before they come into work. Research participants will also be screened for symptoms before attending any research study visit.

All research team members will wear appropriate protective equipment relative to the specific type of research activity. Some research procedures may just require a mask and gloves, but others may require more protective equipment. Any additional protective equipment will be provided to you.

We are following infection control practices, including disinfection and hand washing as outlined by the CDC and College of Charleston guidance.

To allow for proper social distancing, we are limiting the number of people allowed in campus facilities. We are also using telephone or video conferencing whenever possible.

Please let us know if there is anything you are concerned about and thank you again for your participation.