

**COVID-19 Information Sheet for Research Participants**

Please read the following important information about how the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts in-person human subjects research. Please carefully consider this information before deciding whether you would like to participate in an in-person research study at this time. You may choose not to participate, or you may withdraw your consent to participate at any time, for any reason, without jeopardizing your relationship with Lehigh University.

COVID-19 is a new illness caused by a previously unidentified coronavirus. The virus can be transmitted by individuals who are sick, as well as by individuals who have the virus but experience no symptoms. Vaccination, wearing a face mask, physical distancing, and handwashing are the primary strategies used to prevent the spread of the virus. We cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed to COVID-19 during your research session.

**Remember that participation in research is always voluntary. You may choose not to participate, or you may choose to end your participation in the study at any time, for any reason.**

**Screening:** Required only for research involving on-campus visitors

* If you are taking part in research on Lehigh University's campus, you will be asked to sign a form indicating that you do not have COVID-19 symptoms. You will also be asked to list your name and contact information within this form. This information will be used exclusively for the purpose of contact tracing to protect our community from the spread of COVID-19.

**Masking**

* As per CDC guidance and Lehigh University policy, masks must be worn in all indoor settings. Therefore, all research participants and research personnel must wear a mask. Participants who do not wish to wear a mask should decline to take part in in-person research.

**Symptoms of COVID-19**

* The symptoms of COVID-19 can include the following: cough, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat, and congestion or runny nose. Since this is a new virus, some of the symptoms may still be unknown. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.
* Some individuals who contract the virus do not experience any symptoms, or experience only mild symptoms. Some individuals experience symptoms of COVID-19 that require emergency medical care and hospitalization. In some cases, COVID-19 causes death.
* Contact your primary care physician if you are experiencing symptoms that are concerning to you. Individuals experiencing the following symptoms should seek emergency care: trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, confusion, bluish lips, face or toes, and the inability to wake or stay awake.
* For the most up to date information about COVID-19, please refer to the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

**Children and COVID-19:**

* Children can become sick with COVID-19 and can spread the virus to others. While most children experience mild symptoms, some children become severely ill and require hospitalization. In some cases, they might die.
* The CDC is investigating a medical condition associated with COVID-19 in children, called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C). This is a condition in children where different body parts and organs can become inflamed. MIS-C can be serious and may lead to death. It is currently unknown what causes MIS-C and who is at increased risk.

**High Risk Groups:**

* There are certain groups that the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fgroups-at-higher-risk.html) has identified as being at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. This includes adults over age 65, as well as those with the following medical conditions:
  + Cancer
  + Chronic kidney disease
  + COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that includes conditions such as asthma and emphysema)
  + Dementia
  + Diabetes (type 1 or type 2)
  + Down syndrome
  + Heart conditions
  + HIV infection
  + Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
  + Liver disease
  + Organ or blood stem cell transplant recipients
  + Obesity
  + Pregnancy
  + Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
  + Smoking, current or former
  + Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
  + Substance use disorder