

Suggestions to consider for faculty interested in returning to in-person human subjects research

1. Whether on- or off-campus all participants must abide by the Flashes Safe Seven. (By definition, all researchers are already abiding by the Flashes Safe Seven).
2. Participants should be screened for COVID risk factors by phone before meeting in person. Typical screener questions include:
  - a. Do you have any symptoms as defined by the CDC?
    - i. Fever or chills
    - ii. Cough
    - iii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - iv. New loss of taste or smell
    - v. Fatigue
    - vi. Muscle or body aches
    - vii. Headache
    - viii. Sore throat, congestion or runny nose
    - ix. Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
  - b. Within the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been placed in isolation for COVID-19?
  - c. Have you had a COVID-19 test prescribed by a medical professional because you have recently had symptoms and you are currently waiting for the results?
  - d. Have you been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a local public health official?
  - e. Have you traveled out of state to any state reporting a positive testing rate of 15% or higher in the last two weeks?  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory>

If yes to any question, then inform the participant that you will not be able to meet with them (and that they may want to contact their medical provider).

3. Upon meeting in person review screener questions and take temperature of participant. If yes to any question or a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or above, then inform participant that you are unable to meet with them.
4. Participants must be wearing a cloth face covering upon meeting in person. If they are not wearing a cloth face covering, provide a cloth face covering.
5. Maintain a minimum of 6-feet (1.8 meters) distance between all researchers and participants. Maintain a density of no more than one person per 250 sq ft of lab space.
6. Consider whether you can meet with participants outside.
7. If you are unable to follow the Flashes Safe Seven at all times during an encounter with a participant, you can apply for an exception to allow you to conduct your research. This exception must be approved by the Risk Mitigation Subcommittee of the Pandemic Committee. There is no one-size-fits-all mitigation strategy. Each application for an exception will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Typical mitigation strategies include:
  - a. Following all above procedures

- b. Ensuring that people are stationary and requesting an exception to the 250 sq.ft/person density requirement while still maintaining 6 feet distance between people
- c. If 6 ft distancing cannot be maintained, limit exposure to cumulatively less than 15 min.
- d. If 6 ft distancing cannot be maintained, employ higher levels of PPE (faceshields plus masks, labcoats, gloves, etc)
- e. Use Plexiglas to mitigate space requirements. NOTE: Plexiglas presents challenges with air flow and can often increase risk of transmission without sufficient air flow throughout a room.