

CAMRI Guidelines for COVID-19

Protocol for COVID-19

Prior to MRI appointment:

You must have a protocol in place to screen each participant 24 hours before their MRI scan time. We recommend an appointment reminder call the day before. After you confirm the time/date still works for the participant, inform them that, in order to ensure both their safety and ours, we must ask some additional screening questions due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

- a. Inform the participant that if they or anyone in their household has tested positive or had any symptoms including: fever, cough, rash, runny nose, muscle aches, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, recent loss of taste or smell or sore throat in the past 2 weeks, they will have to be rescheduled for at least 14 days after these symptoms subside.
- b. Ask if the participant has traveled to an area with widespread outbreak or has had close contact to a person known to either have, or be suspected of having, Coronavirus in the past month. If yes to either of the above, they will have to be rescheduled at least 21 days after the return from travel or last contact with the possibly infected individual.
- c. If you are unable to reach the participant until the day of their appointment, you will need to address these questions once they arrive and before they are brought to the CAMRI area. If they answer yes to either, they will need to be sent home immediately and rescheduled according to the rules outlined above. In addition, participants must have a temperature below 100.4 degrees and must be fully consented before arriving in the CAMRI area (including the MRI waiting room).

We recommend you instruct your participant to call when they arrive at the medical center, and then you meet them with hand sanitizer and a face mask. Then, walk your participant to your lab space or a CRC space and complete consent. Once all items mentioned above have been completed, you can move the participant to the MRI space. All staff and participants should have on face masks when entering the CAMRI area and you should call Lisa (MRI Technologist)/staff MRI user before you head toward the CAMRI. If possible, only the participant may enter the hospital. If they are in need of another adult for medical reasons or if the participant is a minor, we ask that only one parent or guardian is present with no other family members. The guardian will need to follow the same masking protocol as the participant. Please avoid using the hospital waiting areas if possible and have participant and family wait in the designated space you have established for your consenting.

For staff and participants:

- PPE will need to be provided for the participants by the investigators. Please meet the participants prior to entering the facility to provide PPE and check temperature.
- Anyone above 100.4 will be sent home. CAMRI will have a thermometer available to use. If you need to borrow a thermometer, please make arrangements with Lisa ahead of time. Note that we highly recommend buying your own thermometer. When you arrive at the CAMRI, the staff member will need to log their last name and the participant's temperature.
- Both participant and staff will wear a mask for the entirety of the appointment with the exception of the participant's time in the scanner. The participant can remove their mask

for their time in the machine due to the possible artifact and claustrophobia while being in the MRI. These masks can be homemade or provided by the hospital. If they choose to wear the mask it will need to have all metal removed. The MRI technologist/staff MRI user will wear gloves once entering the scanner and remove them upon exiting the MRI scan room. There will be sanitizer provided for participant to use prior to mask removal and after removal. They will then need to use sanitizer following the scan before putting their mask back on.

Use of MRI Scanner:

- When scheduling MRI scans, please allow 30 minutes minimum between each appointment to provide the extra time of cleaning and related COVID procedures.
- After use of the MRI, the MRI technologist/staff MRI user will wipe down door handles, head coils (inside and out), scanner table buttons, scanner table, inside the scanner tube where the participants touch the sides, drawer handles, cabinet handles, panic squeeze ball, cushions, button pads, etc. Anything the participant could have touched will be wiped down with the wipes provided by NE Medicine that are for sanitizing. The scanner console will also be cleaned after use including the keyboards, mouse, counter, etc. The wipes are provided at the scanner console and also in the MRI scanner room. There are gloves provided prior to entering the MRI scanner room.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Scan start times may be delayed. Please understand the extra cleaning will take extra time.
- Please check with Lisa/MRI Staff prior to entering the MRI area to be sure there is no chance of participants overlapping in hallways near the clinical MRI areas.
- Remember that the research scanner is near the clinical scanners and this is a hospital with active COVID cases. NE Medicine Clinical Technologists will try to keep us informed of possible COVID-19 patients who transfer in the hallways during our scan times so we can be given time to leave before they enter the area if we choose. Nights and Weekends scanning staff will need to call MRI (402-559-1236 or 402-559-1037) prior to scanning to let NE Medicine Technologist know you are there so they can alert you. Remember you will be wearing a mask and so will your participants.

***Please know these are only guidelines and are subject to change as we continue to move forward.**