

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

UC Davis Imaging Research Center

COVID-19 Precautions MRI Research Studies

1.0 PURPOSE: This SOP explains the evidence based steps for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 for researchers, MRI operators, MRI safety monitors, and participants that are conducting research MRIs at the UC Davis Imaging Research Center (IRC). These steps parallel those used in clinical care as well as presently in the broader community. It is mandatory that all users follow these procedures for the health and safety of all that enter the IRC. This includes use of health screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfection of the MRI scanner, disinfection of ancillary equipment, and disinfection of other items handled in Zones 1 - 4 when conducting MRI research studies.

2.0 COVID PRECAUTIONS ONLINE TRAINING

2.1 All MRI operators and safety monitors will complete the online *COVID Safety Precaution Training* and quiz before they can conduct an MRI research scan.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The operator/safety monitor will complete a health screen given by their department or the IRC before they can conduct MRI research scans.

3.2 The operator/safety monitor will wear gloves and mask and the participant will wear a mask as well. The gloves and masks are supplied by the IRC. The following steps will be followed as well:

- The operator/safety monitor will wear gloves and mask when working in close proximity to the participant.
- The participant will wear a mask into the MRI scanner.
- The operator/safety monitor at the completion of the MRI research scan will review the COVID check off list to verify disinfection has been done thoroughly.

3.3 The operator/safety monitor, before the MRI research scan begins, will conduct a participant health screen to include the following questions:

- Do you have any of the following symptoms: headache, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, Fever >100°F, shortness of breath?
- Have you traveled in the last 21 days?
- In the last 21 days have you been in contact with a sick person with flu like symptoms?

If the participant answers “Yes” to any of the above questions, further investigation and/or re-scheduling of the MRI research scan may be necessary.

4.0 MAINTAINING PERSONAL HEALTH and SAFETY

4.1 Wear mask and gloves to protect you, your lab members, participants, and other personnel at the IRC. **NOTE:** Children 2 years old and under that are having an MRI research study must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation. The researcher positioning the child will wear a face shield in addition to the mask and gloves. Masks, gloves, and face shield will be supplied by the IRC.

4.2 Research participants that are older than 2 years should wear a mask while they are having their MRI research study. The mask must be free of any metal before entering Zone 4. If the participant prefers not to wear a mask, the researcher positioning the participant will be required to wear a mask, gloves, and a face shield for additional protection. Masks, gloves, and face shield will be supplied by the IRC.

4.3 If the type of MRI research study compromises the participant's data due to the participant wearing a medical mask, you may exclude the wearing of the medical mask for the participant. Upon completion of the MRI research study the participant will resume wearing a mask. The researcher that will be positioning the participant for the MRI research study will be required to wear a mask, gloves, and a face shield for additional protection. Masks, gloves, and face shield will be supplied by the IRC.

4.4 Wash hands or use sanitizing liquid frequently. Sanitizing liquid will be supplied by the IRC.

4.5 Practice social distancing. Maintain a six-foot distance from the closest person as much as possible. If a child participant prefers to have a parent/guardian with them in Zones 3 and 4, the parent/guardian will wear a mask while accompanying the child participant. Otherwise, have them wait in the lobby keeping in the designated seating locations respecting social distancing or in their vehicles when possible. Please, limit participant companions or parent/guardian to one person in the lobby.

5.0 DISINFECTING PROCEDURE

5.1 "Super Sani-Cloth" disinfecting wipes will be supplied by the IRC for cleaning after completion of the MRI research study.

5.2 The following MRI and ancillary equipment must be disinfected using the "Super Sani-Cloth" disinfecting wipes:

- Phantoms (if used), table buttons, alarm bulb, table cushions, inside of bore, head coil, all sponges that were used, keyboard, button boxes, knee sponge, intercom, eye tracker (if used), telephone, counters, and other surfaces or items that were handled.

These items will be on a check off list. Please note that additional time will be allotted for the extra time for proper disinfecting clean up.

6.0 PRECAUTIONS WITH AFTER HOURS SCANNING

6.1 Research labs scanning after regular hours will need to follow the same procedures for the IRC COVID precautions. Additional after hour items include:

- If possible, only one person should accompany the participant in Zone 3 and 4. All other persons accompanying participant should wait in their vehicles to avoid the possibility of contamination to items in the IRC.
- All linens are to be single use, even when protective covering is used. Pillows must be hospital grade and have a non-absorbing fluid cover.
- All items that are brought into Zone 3 and 4 must be disinfected with the sanitizing wipes or washed before the next study.

7.0 PRECAUTION FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH STUDIES

7.1 All personal working with animal studies are required to wear masks to mitigate possible viral transmission where social distancing is difficult to follow. Gloves and any other PPE will be worn as needed for protection.

7.2 After completion of research study, routine disinfection of MRI scanner, table, anesthesia machine, and the floor will be done. In addition, all other items handled will be disinfected.

8.0 REQUIRED STAFFING FOR RESEARCH MRI SCANS

8.1 When a MRI research scan is scheduled at the Sacramento or Davis MRI facilities, it is required that there be at least two (2) MRI safety monitors. This means at least a MRI operator and a MRI safety monitor that are current with their MRI safety certification.

9.0 SCHEDULING OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS THAT HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

9.1 If a participant has tested positive for COVID-19 the two (2) criteria below must be fulfilled before the participant is eligible for an MRI research scan.

- A 21-day waiting period from the date the participant tested positive will be implemented before scheduling the participant.
- The participant must have a documented negative COVID-19 test before scheduling the participant.