Important Information about COVID-19 and Human Subjects Research Participation

At Central Connecticut State University we are committed to protecting the safety of our research participants. As part of that commitment, we are providing you with important information about COVID-19 and reviewing ways to mitigate research risks related to COVID-19. If you are considering participating in a study, please consider the following information to help you determine if becoming a research participant is right for you at this time.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious, novel coronavirus spread by respiratory droplets, primarily through person-to-person contact. A person can also contract COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touching their mouth, nose or eyes.

For most people, the COVID-19 virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with pre-existing health conditions, it can cause more severe illness and even death. It is important to understand that since research participation may include increased exposure to others, there is a risk that research participation may increase your exposure to COVID-19.

There are several ways that CCSU is actively working to minimize the risk of COVID-19 for research participants. Wherever possible, we are encouraging researchers to conduct their studies without interpersonal contact. If an in-person interaction is necessary for the research study, we will reduce the time you are exposed to other people as much as possible. If you do participate in in-person research activities, all research team members will be required to wear appropriate protective equipment relative to the specific type of research activity in which you are engaged.

While we will do 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 the research staff know immediately if you experience symptoms and/or are diagnosed with COVID-19 up to 14 days after any study visit.

Remember that participation in research is valuable but also voluntary. Let us know if you are generally uncomfortable with any study guidelines or proposed interactions and know that you may stop your participation in a research study at any time with no penalty.

Because information related to risks of COVID-19 is updated frequently, Central Connecticut State University will continue to monitor these risks to inform research practices that involve human participants on our campus. If you have questions about COVID-19 as it relates to your participation in research, please consult with our Institutional Review Board (IRB) by emailing irb@ccsu.edu.
Procedures for use of the above script:

- The use of this script is required for all in-person study participants until community spread of COVID-19 is no longer considered by the IRB to be a risk related to in-person research interactions.
- Additions and other changes to this script must be submitted to the IRB as a modification.
- This script should be shared with participants prior to any in-person research interactions. The script can be placed online, emailed, or shared in a call.
- Use of the script with each research participant must be documented.