
NEW COVID-19 INSTRUCTIONS

1. Purpose

This SOP provides guidance to researchers with human subjects' protocols requiring in-person recruitment and/or testing at Caltech. This SOP will be updated periodically and remain in place until further notice in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

2. General Information

The Caltech IRB continues to follow federal, state and local safety requirements regarding COVID-19, as implemented by Caltech Administration. All researchers must regularly review the on-campus requirements found at <https://together.caltech.edu>, as well as any local requirements associated with working in a specific building.

For subjects, Caltech IRB continues to require all subjects to be vaccinated.

3. Guidelines

Researchers

Researchers must:

- a. ensure that the ICF language, below is included in their current consent forms;
- b. be familiar with and act in accordance with current Caltech requirements regarding COVID-19 safeguards imposed by Caltech. These requirements can be found at <https://together.caltech.edu>;
- c. be familiar with and follow any local requirements associated with working in a specific building; and
- d. ensure that research participants are fully vaccinated, are informed about and comply with Caltech COVID-19 safeguard requirements for being on campus or in buildings.

Research Participants

The IRB requires that all research participants be fully vaccinated.

All research subjects must:

- a. show a valid CDC record or California QR code, demonstrating that they are fully vaccinated; and
- b. abide by Caltech's on-campus COVID-19 requirements found at <https://together.caltech.edu>, as well as any specific building requirements for buildings they will enter as part of their participation in the study.

4. Informed Consent (ICF) Language

During the remainder of the pandemic, or until instructed otherwise by the IRB, Investigators must include in their IRB approved informed consent the COVID-19 language provided, below. Investigators should submit an amendment to active protocols to update the informed consent language, and have it approved by the IRB, prior to resuming or continuing with research. Note that the language has been modified to include a **responsibility on the part of the researcher to be aware of and inform subjects of current Campus COVID-19 requirements**, including any requirements of being in a specific building. Adapting this language to the informed consent negates the requirement to update the informed consent each time the campus COVID-19 requirements change.

COVID-19 ICF Language:

“You are participating in on-campus research during a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is still active, and when new mutations of the virus that causes COVID continue to emerge. Participating in this research may expose you to those viruses and therefore presents some risk of contracting COVID-19. To minimize this risk, it is required that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. To participate you must show your valid CDC vaccination card or other acceptable vaccination card as described on Caltech’s website: <https://together.caltech.edu>. As the pandemic situation is fluid, you must abide by all requirements for campus access specified on this website, which may include a requirement to wear a mask. The researcher will inform you about any additional current COVID-19 safeguarding requirements specific to this study (e.g. wearing masks or distancing) and you must comply with these requirements in order to participate in this study.

Please do not participate in this study if you feel ill, or if you have been close to somebody known to have COVID-19. Please practice good hygiene and wash your hands before and after you do the study session. If you test positive for COVID-19 after participating in this research, please contact the researcher immediately. If you have any questions about the risks of contracting COVID-19 during this study, please ask the researcher before you participate.”