

## Important Information about COVID-19 and Research Participation

If you are considering joining a study at this time or are currently enrolled in a study, it is important that you consider the following information to determine if study participation is right for you at this time.

**What is COVID-19?** COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the [coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans](#) and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

**How is COVID-19 spread?** COVID-19 is a novel virus thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another (less than 6 feet). It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object (such as a doorknob or counter surface) that has the virus on it, then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

**Can COVID-19 be prevented?** Currently there is no vaccination to prevent COVID-19 infection. Ways to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 include practicing “social distancing” and wearing face coverings to decrease the potential for direct exposure to others who may have been exposed to COVID-19, for example by avoiding large gatherings or refraining from shaking hands with others. It is important to understand that since study participation may include increased in-person interaction with others it may increase your exposure to COVID-19.

**What are the risks of COVID-19?** People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

**Who is most at risk?** Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, [older adults](#) and people with underlying [medical conditions](#) are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

**How could your participation in this research change as a result of COVID-19?** The University of Delaware is committed to help stop the spread of the virus in our community and has implemented several [measures to minimize COVID-19 related risks](#). In addition, if possible, we limit the number of times you have to come to a clinical care or research site. Every person coming to campus is required to complete [daily health screenings](#) and asked if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with anyone who has or had COVID-19. During your research visits, everyone is asked to wear face coverings and we try to reduce the time you are exposed to other people as much as possible. If you are suspected to be positive for COVID-19 in-person research visits will be postponed or cancelled.

If you have questions about COVID-19 and your participation in research, please talk to the study team.