

Protocol for Bringing Human Subjects to IIT (Illinois Tech) for Research Studies

In an effort to support research involving human subjects, with respect to the state of Illinois and Illinois Tech's progressively relaxed COVID-19 safety precautions, the Office of Research has redeveloped procedures for restoring the option for investigators to invite human subjects to visit campus to participate in research.

Our primary goal continues to be the minimization of COVID-19 risks to the health and safety of our human subjects and the research team members, while preserving the highest level of scientific integrity of the research protocols – note, in order to bring human subjects to campus, you must have an active IRB-approved protocol.

However, our overreaching goal going forward is to bolster institutional research activity involving human subjects while maintaining a work environment where IIT recommended COVID-19 safety precautions can be practiced.

All plans are to include the below components.

PRESCREEN

These questions are to be asked, on the phone prior to face-to-face meeting, of the participant.

- In the past two weeks have you come in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- Have you or someone who lives with you traveled out of state/country in the last 30 days?
- Do you live in a high-populated area/apartment complex that is exposed to COVID-19?
- In the past two weeks, have you experienced any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?

In general, participants that answer yes to any of the questions should not be invited to come to campus to participate until two weeks have passed since the date of the triggering event.

UPON ARRIVAL

For all staff and subjects entering your facility:

- PPE is optional for all staff, and made available to any presenting human subjects who might like to have them.
- If the subject is symptomatic and in distress, the principal investigator should make arrangements to assist the subject with promptly leaving the facility.

Rooming Functions: Upon Arrival, During Visit and After the Visit

- Research staff should follow all current CDC, state and local public health protocols and IIT policy related to washing hands, wearing masks, and wearing gloves.