



Notice of Respiratory Infection Risks During Research

Please read this form before you consent to participate in a research study. Please also talk to the researcher about any concerns you have before signing the consent form or agreeing to participate in the research. Remember that research participants may withdraw from a study at any time, without giving a reason.

Although the COVID-19 health emergency has eased, Island Health remains concerned about outbreaks of new COVID-19 variants and other respiratory diseases, such as influenza. Outbreaks can arise suddenly, and the researcher may inform you of

Risks of in-person contact during the research

For research that involves in-person activities, such as testing, focus groups, interviews or observations, the researchers will be following requirements and, in some cases, safety plans that have been approved by the REBs. You should know that although there are safety protocols in place, participants in this study are not required to be vaccinated, and this may increase the risk of being exposed to respiratory infections. Safety Plans include: safe use of facilities (including outdoor spaces), experimental equipment, personal protective devices, and physical distancing.

If you are required to use public transit to get to or from a research location, this may increase your risk of being exposed to respiratory infections. We encourage you to take precautions, including wearing a face mask (N95, KN95, or medical mask) while in public, washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, and keeping a safe physical distance from others (at least 2 metres or 6 feet). Please let the researcher know if you want more information about the safety plans that have been put in place.

Accommodation

Please let the researcher know if you require modifications to the research procedures to enable your participation, especially if you have a compromised immune system or are in close contact with someone whose immune system is compromised. The researcher is obligated to accommodate reasonable requests and can discuss your situation with you. Examples of reasonable changes include increasing infectious disease protections by providing masks or improving ventilation.

You have the right to ask researchers if they are vaccinated for COVID-19, influenza, or other relevant illnesses and to request that they wear masks or take extra precautions to protect you from infection.

Contact Tracing

In the event of an outbreak or epidemic of infectious disease, the researcher may be required by public health authorities to share your contact information if there is a chance that you have been exposed to the virus during a study visit. Researchers will take precautions during study activity to lower the risk of contracting or spreading infectious diseases.



The researchers will notify you if they believe you have been exposed to a serious infectious illness at any point during the research project.

What if I have symptoms or am diagnosed with a respiratory infection?

If you are feeling unwell, it is best to stay home and avoid in-person research activities if possible. Please contact the researcher to discuss whether it is safe for you to continue with the scheduled research activity.

Before every research activity, the researcher may ask each person present a series of questions recommended by public health authorities. They may ask about your physical symptoms, if you have been in contact with people who are sick, and other related questions. Based on your responses, the researcher will decide if it is safe to proceed with the in-person activity.

Ensure that you keep the research team's contact information (included on the Informed Consent Form) so that you can share it with public health authorities in the event that you become sick after participating in research.

Thank you!