



Notice of COVID-Related Risks during In-Person Research – Version C

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.

Safety Plans

The researchers will be following safety plans that have been approved by Island Health for all in-person contact during research, including safe use of facilities and experimental equipment, personal protective devices, and physical distancing. The researchers in this study are required to be vaccinated. In the event that a future surge of Covid-19 cases prompts new restrictions from the Public Health Officer, the researchers will ensure that the research study is changed as needed. Details of any changes that may affect you (a back-up plan to continue the study in the event of another disruption) will be described in the Informed Consent Form, if applicable.

All visitors to Island Health facilities must wear a mask. Participants in research studies are not required to be vaccinated, unless a vaccine mandate for the general public is imposed.

Despite precautions, participating in in-person research may expose you to Covid-19. Travel to research locations may expose you to a different level of risk than you would encounter at home. We encourage you to take all precautions, including getting your vaccinations, wearing a face 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.

What if I have COVID-19 symptoms or am diagnosed with COVID-19?

Before every research activity, the researcher will ask each person who is present a series of questions recommended by public health authorities. They will 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.

Contact Tracing

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 COVID-19 during a study visit. If required, the researcher will share your contact details, but will not share information about the purpose of your involvement, the name of the study, or anything about the research topic or data related to you. Your contact tracing information will be kept securely and separate from research records/data and will be deleted 30 days after your last contact with the researcher. You may leave the study at any time, but your contact information must be held for 30 days.

It is important to know that if contact tracing is required, your anonymity will not be preserved. You will find more information about contact tracing on the BC Centre for Disease control website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/contact-tracing>.

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

Thank you!