



Notice of COVID-Related Risks during Research – Version A

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.

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. 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>.

How does contact tracing work?

If public health authorities ask the researcher to provide a list of people who they have been in contact with, the researcher will be required to share your contact details. The researcher will not share information about the purpose of your contact, the name of the study, or anything about the research topic. 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. It is important to know that if contact tracing is required, your anonymity will not be preserved.

What if I want to withdraw from the study?

If at any time you decide to withdraw from the study, the research data you have contributed will be governed as described in the Informed Consent Form, however, the research team will continue to store your contact information for contact tracing purposes as long as required by public health authorities. .

Risks of in-person contact during the research

For research that involves in-person activities such as focus groups, interviews, or observations, the researchers will be following safety plans that have been approved by Island Health. These 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 COVID-19. We encourage you to take all precautions, including 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 about their health. The questions have been recommended by public health authorities, and will ask about your physical symptoms, if you have been in contact with people who are sick, and other 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 you can share it with public health authorities in the event that you become sick after participating in research.

Thank you!