

Resuming In-person Human Subjects Research at Governors State University

This guidance is developed in accordance with [Phase 5](#) of the Restore Illinois Plan that permits businesses and schools to return to normal operations with appropriate safety measures in place and the Governors State University’s Operating Plan for Academic Year 2021-2022.

Researchers whose studies can be conducted without face to face contact are encouraged to continue IRB approved virtual procedures.

Researches who wish to resume in person activities should do the following:

- Researchers conducting activities on campus must comply with [Governors State University’s Operating Plan for Academic Year 2021-2022](#).
- Researchers conducting activities at external sites must comply with the requirements of the respective site.
- Researchers must pre-screen external research participants* coming to campus for symptoms using the IRB provided screening questionnaire. Participants that have failed the screening should be advised to get tested for COVID-19 and seek medical care.
- Researchers must keep a log of participants who have been pre-screened.
- Researchers may implement hybrid options including virtual and in person activities, as needed.
- Researchers should ensure that participants do not feel compelled or pressured to participate in-person.
- Researchers of approved studies that have been put on hold because of COVID-19 or those using virtual procedures must submit a modification to receive IRB approval for reopening in-person activities. The modification should describe the safety measures that will be put in place to maximize the safety of research participants and the study team during in-person interactions.
- Given the fluidity of the current situation, the OSPR/IRB will continue to closely monitor public health guidance and the University-wide policies, and amend this guidance accordingly.

*External participants are those who are not affiliated with GSU.

COVID-19 Symptom Pre-Screener

Researchers wishing to resume in-person research activities on university property must use this pre-screening tool to screen research participants for COVID-19 symptoms.

Passing requires an answer of “No” to **all** of the following questions:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	In the past 40 days, have you tested positive for COVID-19?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you currently under investigation for COVID-19 and not yet aware if you tested positive or negative?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	In the past 14 days, have you lived with, visited, or cared for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 40 days?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	In the past 14 days, were you or a member of your household advised to self-isolate for COVID-19 by government officials or healthcare providers?
		In the past 14 days, have you experienced any of the following symptoms?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Fever or chills
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Mild or moderate difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	New or worsening cough
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Sustained loss of smell, taste, or appetite
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Sore throat

If the participant answers “Yes” to any of the above screening questions, researchers should err on the side of caution and cancel the study visit without further assessment. If the individual is experiencing any of the above symptoms, recommend that they contact a doctor to determine if seeking medical care or being tested for COVID-19 is advised.

If the participant passes pre-screening, please fully inform them of what to expect and what procedures they will need to follow while on site. For example, please inform the research participant that they will be required to wear a face covering/mask at all times when they are in any indoor shared space.

Researchers must keep a log of participants who have been pre-screened. The log may be required by OSPR for auditing purposes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of the Sponsored Programs and Research
 Tel.: 708-235-2846
 Email: ospr@govst.edu

Institutional Review Board
 Tel.: 708-534-4987
 Email: irb@govst.edu