

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Participating in Human Subject Research and COVID-19

The following is important information related to Coronavirus (COVID-19). This information pertains to human subject research that requires person-to-person interaction or intervention between researchers and participants. As a potential research participant, please read it carefully and use it, along with the researcher provided consent documents, to determine whether you should participate in research at this time.

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

To best understand COVID-19, please review the [CDC's COVID-19 fact sheet](#). This fact sheet will provide you information about what COVID-19 is, how it spreads, the best ways to protect yourself and others, as well as who is at greatest risk for contracting it.

Status of Human Subject Research at Central Michigan University

In March, all in-person human subject research at CMU was put on hold with the increase of COVID-19 cases within the State of Michigan and the government orders to Stay Home Stay Safe. On June 1, Michigan Governor Whitmer rescinded the “Stay Home” order for the entire state, and announced that Michigan had moved into the “Improving” phase (Phase 4) of the [MI Safe Start Plan](#). “Improving” is the fourth of six phases, and this phase permits reopening of more lower-risk businesses, with strict safety measures in place.

With this relaxation of State restrictions, and with the reopening of the CMU campus, CMU is cautiously beginning to resume person-to-person human subject research studies. University officials, including the Office of Research Compliance, will continue to monitor the evolving situation, and have implemented additional requirements necessary when conducting in-person human subject research. It is important to note that any research studies allowed to start or re-start could be quickly put on hold again in the event of a COVID-19 exposure within the immediate research team or participants, or if the Institution or State status moves back to a more restrictive level due to an increase in COVID-19 cases within the community.

Additional Safety Measures Implemented

Each research study team that plans to re-start human subject research has additional safety requirements being implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the study team and participants. Some of these include:

- Face coverings are required for everyone on campus, including research participants; gloves may also be required (when appropriate).
- Daily screening of research study teams for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Increased disinfecting and cleaning of commonly used research spaces
- Limited number of persons in small spaces and continued social distancing measures

- Modified check in procedures to ensure contact tracing is conducted quickly in the event of an exposure
- Excluding any person at high risk (older than 65 and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions) from participating at this time, unless prior approval is obtained

Before You Choose to Participate

If you choose to participate in research at Central Michigan University at this time, you will play an important role in helping us all remain safe. Research participants must wear a mask when on campus. Researchers will be required to conduct a health screening of all research participants prior to each interaction. The screening will include questions about your current health status, age, recent travel, and potential exposure to COVID-19 infected person(s). Additionally, you will be required to report any new information about potential or known COVID-19 exposure you become aware of and any COVID-19 symptoms you experience AFTER you have participated if it is within a 14-day window of the research activity.

Please talk to your research team if you have additional questions or concerns about COVID-19 or participating in research at Central Michigan University. If after reading this information you would like to participate and are eligible, additional information will be given to you by the research investigator with regards to screening and reporting procedures, and requirements for the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).

Adapted from materials provided by Michigan Technological University, with permission.