**Additional COVID-19 Information Related to**

**Consent to Participate in In-Person Research at Virginia Tech**

You have agreed to participate in a research study at Virginia Tech. The research study involves in-person contact or procedures. Here are some things you should know about in-person research while COVID-19 remains a risk:

**Risks related to COVID-19:**

If you choose to participate in this study, the risk for COVID-19 are about the same as those posed by similar activities while the virus is still spreading in your community. Similar activities could include grocery shopping, having your car repaired, or getting a haircut.

In addition, participation might increase risk to your family, the community, and the research team.

You should not participate if you have any conditions or risk factors that could make a COVID-19 infection more serious. Risk factors for severe illness include having other medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart problems, or any other illness. Certain populations might also be at increased risk or unknown risk, including people aged 65 and older, people with disabilities, women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, people who are experiencing homelessness, and people who are part of racial and ethnic minority groups.

The information on people who need to take extra precautions is being updated regularly. We encourage you to check for the latest information before you decide whether to participate. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html> for the most up to date information.

**What we are doing to reduce risk to you:**

Each lab or study has developed a process for conducting the research as safely as possible, given current knowledge about COVID-19. This process has been reviewed by the Human Research Protection Program at Virginia Tech. You will be given a sheet with information specific to your study. You should review this information and ask any questions before you agree to participate.

We will not conduct the study during times of increasing community spread or if we cannot obtain the necessary disinfecting supplies and equipment to reduce the risk of exposure.

Everyone working on the study has been instructed to stay home if they have any symptoms that could be related to COVID-19. If someone on the research team tests positive for COVID-19 and you have been exposed, someone will notify you. We will maintain a contact tracing log that is separate from your data and other details about your participation, and we will provide this log to the New River Health District (540 267-8240) who will conduct contact tracing in the case of a positive test. We will destroy this log 60 days after your last visit.

**What you can do to reduce risk to us and to the community:**

Do not participate if you have had any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chill, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

Do not participate if you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 21 days, even if you have not shown any symptoms.

Do not participate if you know you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 21 days.

Let us know if you test positive for COVID-19 within the next 14 days. We will provide your contact tracing log to university or public health authorities who will use the tracing log to contact others who may have been exposed during your visit.

Wash your hands frequently and observe current guidance on avoiding virus spread from the Centers for Disease Control.

Wear a mask or a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth. Depending on the study, another method may be used, such as physical distancing, a face shield, or Plexiglas barrier.

**For the latest information on COVID-19 please visit:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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