

## **COVID-19 related Policies and Procedures for MRI-research at Center for Advanced Brain Imaging (CABI)**

The following policies and procedures are based on the guidelines from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) and Georgia Tech's research ramp-up guidelines. As the situation remains fluid, we may update certain policies based on the latest recommendations from these entities (links below) and operational conditions at the center.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- <https://dph.georgia.gov/>
- <http://health.gatech.edu/campus-guidelines>
- <https://www.gsu.edu/coronavirus/faculty-and-researchers/>

### **Goal**

To protect MRI research participants, research study personnel, and staff from exposure and transmission of COVID-19 after resumption of MRI-specific human subject research at CABI.

### **Information for Research Teams:**

#### Prior to the MRI session:

- The study team should be familiarized with COVID-19 prevention guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>)
- The study team is required to learn how to correctly wear and dispose gloves and single-use masks before the scan day. Sample tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49gKSsPCIG8>
- At the time of subject recruitment (over the phone), pre-screening procedures will now have to include a COVID-19 related information sheet (Appendix 1) and a questionnaire (COVID-19 screener) in addition to standard MRI and study related screening procedures. These will have to be done prior to MRI scheduling.
- Researchers, participants and caregivers (if applicable) are required to participate in contact tracing. If any individual tests positive for COVID-19 Version 11-02-2020 Georgia Institute of Technology within 14 days of being physically present in a Georgia Tech research facility, they must contact the contact person named in the consent form or Stamps Health Services to report the positive test result for COVID-19. If the contact person for the study is informed by a subject that they have tested positive for COVID-19, the information will be forwarded to Stamps Health Services. In accordance with Institute guidance, Stamps Health Services will notify the Georgia Department of Public Health for possible contact tracing.
- The study team must encourage the participant to arrive alone for their appointment. If the participant will need a caregiver, the study team will need to pre-screen the caregiver and inform CABI staff in advance.
- MRI reservations will only be approved after pre-screening results are provided to designated CABI staff.

- Only MRI related scheduling will be allowed during initial re-opening phase (i.e. one can schedule a consultation room, mock-scanner room only if you have scheduled an MRI scan).
- While scheduling, please keep in mind that a one-hour gap will be enforced between all scans. This is to allow time for post-scan cleaning and sufficient air exchange to occur in the MRI and control room and to minimize the number of people in the waiting area.
- One day prior to the scan, pre-screen again (Day 2 COVID-19 screener) over the phone. If their status has changed from previous screening, please inform CABI staff and cancel next day's scan. If their status is the same, ask the subject to phone-in any change of status on the day of the scan. Remind them to arrive alone. If they have requested to bring a caregiver, remind them that the caregiver should bring his/her own mask.

#### Minor research participants:

- Only children enrolled in an active research appointment will be allowed access to CABI.
- Minor research participants will be allowed one parent/caregiver to accompany them to their scan appointment. Both child and accompanying caregiver must pass the Phone and Door COVID-19 screenings.
- Accompanying caregiver must remain in front waiting area and will not be permitted access to other areas within CABI. Caregivers are encouraged to remain in their vehicle when not necessary for research procedures.
- Minor participants are required to adhere to all CABI COVID-19 health safety procedures, including mask usage. Researchers should encourage minors to receive training on proper mask usage prior to scan appointment.  
Sample tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mn6axdkbGd4>

#### On the day of the MRI session:

- Only the main CABI entrance can be used for entry and exit for MRI scans.
- Only one research study team personnel will be allowed to accompany the participant (and any caregiver), unless explicitly required by IRB approved protocol.
- Hand sanitizing procedures should be followed when arriving and departing the center and at regular intervals while in the center building. There are sanitizer stations at the entrance and other locations within CABI.
- Research study personnel, participants and any caregivers will be required to complete a COVID-19 screening, including a questionnaire, forehead temperature, and finger pulse oximeter check, before entering the building (see attached).

- Designated CABI staff will complete screening at the door upon arrival. CABI staff will be using appropriate PPE (i.e. surgical mask, face shield, clean gloves) and will sanitize equipment and change gloves between each screening.
  - Upon arrival and prior to screening, research study personnel, participant, any caregiver must wear a mask and should sanitize their hands. Mask will be provided only to the participant. Research study teams are requested to arrange for their own PPE equipment such as masks and disposable gloves.
  - Any individual who answers 'yes' to any of the screening questions, has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, or has an oxygen saturation below 90% will be denied further participation on that day and encouraged to consult a physician regarding their symptoms (standard guidance pre-printed).
- All personnel will be required to maintain proper social distancing protocols at all times while at CABI. CABI staff will post COVID-19 transmission prevention and personal protection signage at the entrance and within CABI areas.
  - After pre-screening, the participant and study team member will be required to wear a mask while in the building, including during the scan session. Study team members that have direct contact with participants are encouraged to wear disposable gloves until the MRI study is over.
    - Any participant who is not properly wearing their face mask, covering nose and mouth, will be instructed to adjust as necessary. If they refuse to adhere or require multiple promptings, the session will be discontinued and participant will be escorted from the building.
    - Participant will not be required to wear mask while actively in the scanner. They be allowed to remove mask immediately before the head coil is placed for scan and must replace the mask directly after the scan, once coil is removed.

**PPE use for MR Technologist:**

- The MR technologist will be required to wear full PPE (surgical mask, gloves, face shield) whenever interacting with subject in scanner room.
  - Face shield will remain inside the scanner room and should be sanitized between subjects.
  - Fresh pair of gloves will be put on immediately before entering the scanner room before subject setup and will be disposed of after removing face shield but before exiting the scanner room
- MR tech will wear a surgical mask at all times during the scan session.
- MR tech will minimize contact with the subject as much as possible for subject's and personal safety. Verbal instructions will be used as much as possible to guide the correct subject positioning on the MRI table.
- Social distancing measures, including limiting conversation, will be maintained between MR tech and research personnel during scan sessions.

**Post-scan cleaning:**

- The MRI tech conducting the scan will be responsible for disinfecting all patient comfort padding, MRI table, inner/outer surface of the MRI coil used, surface of the patient alarm device, surface of response devices used (e.g., button box), subject headphones, physiological signal recording equipment used, scanner control room countertop, MRI compatible eye wear, control room PC keyboards and mouse, handles of the participant lockers, door handles for magnet room, control room, MRI hallway restroom, mock-scanner room if used. Caviwipes or other suitable disinfectants will be used. Alcohol sanitizer will be used regularly after post-scan cleaning.
  
- A post-scan cleanup checklist (Appendix 3) will be completed by the MR tech and attached to scan session forms.

**Information regarding non-MRI related CABI access:**

- During the initial re-opening phase, access to all common CABI areas such as kitchen, linux workstations in the computer lab, conference room and CABI printer will be limited to CABI staff only.
  - o When appropriate (secondary phase), these facilities may be re-opened to CABI users. At such time, proper social distancing measures (minimum 6ft apart) should be observed when using CABI common areas. A mask must be worn at all times when in these areas and hands should be washed/sanitized upon entering and leaving the area. All surfaces that have been touched (i.e. microwave, fridge, keyboard) should be wiped down after use. “Flow of traffic” directional signs should be followed where appropriate.
  
- Access to MRI suite hallway areas will be limited to CABI staff only.
  
- A no-charge cancellation policy for MRI will be in effect until further notice. Researchers are requested to inform CABI staff as soon as possible if a participant cancels.