Clinical Research at Duke
Guide for Research Participants During COVID-19

Duke Health’s top priority is protecting the health and well-being of patients, visitors, research participants and team members. All clinical research operations are following CDC guidelines and recommendations for COVID-19 safety, these are described below.

Virtual Study Visits
Whenever possible, study teams are using virtual visits to connect with research participants for study visits. These may include phone or video visits using a secure platform.

Visit Timing & Waiting
Study visits will be scheduled to minimize overlap with other visits and wait times. Other new operations include: the choice to wait in your car rather than the waiting room, new "research-only" visit locations, and practices that minimize contact during lab-only visits.

Visitors
Duke is limiting the number of visitors in clinic spaces. Currently visitors aren’t allowed for most inpatient visits, whereas one visitor is allowed for outpatient visits. For updated information, see: dukehealth.org/VisitorRestrictions

Personal Protective Equipment & Hygiene
Duke clinical research requires masking and hand hygiene for study participants, visitors, and study team members. You will be asked to wear a mask and keep it on for the entire study visit.

Physical Distancing
The number of people in the clinics will be limited and study teams will encourage a 6ft physical distance. A team member may need to be within 6ft of you during a visit, but will wear protective equipment and minimize the amount of time as able.
What to Expect at Your Research Visit & Frequently Asked Questions

- Your study coordinator will contact you before your visit for a pre-screening interview. This will include standard questions about any potential exposures to COVID-19 or symptoms you are having.
- When you arrive at the clinic, you will be screened in-person for symptoms, your temperature will be taken with a touchless thermometer, and you will be given a face mask to wear during your entire visit.
- You are allowed to bring one visitor with you for outpatient visits. Visitors will also be screened and must wear a face mask.
- Your study team and research coordinator will also wear a mask and will be screened upon arrival to work.

FAQs

You may have many questions about your visit during this time. We encourage you to discuss any questions and concerns with your research team both during your screening phone call and at any time throughout your visit.

Does participating in clinical research expose me to COVID-19?

COVID-19 is spread through droplets in the air and on some surfaces. This can happen when people are close together (closer than 6 ft) and when people who have the virus, even if they don't feel sick, spread droplets by coughing, sneezing, or touching surfaces and other people.

Our processes follow CDC guidelines and recommendations to provide safe distances between people during visits, masks to reduce droplets in the air, and sanitization of surfaces and equipment — allowing us to provide quality research visits while keeping you, your family and our team safe and healthy.

What is Duke doing to promote the safety of clinical research participants?

We have made changes to operations to protect research participants, including:

- Increased use of virtual visits to connect with you, including phone or video visits
- Encouraging physical distancing and allowing extra time between study visits
- Limiting the number of people in our buildings, including visitors
- Participant, visitor and study team screening prior to entering the building
- Added sanitizing stations to our clinics and research buildings
- Mandatory masking and hand washing for all participants, visitors and team members

I joined a research study before COVID-19 happened. Am I still able to participate in that study?

Participating in a research study is always an individual choice, and you can change your mind at any time for any reason. We value your partnership in solving important health problems and want you to feel safe and comfortable. Your research team may discuss with you some changes in how they will conduct visits to promote safety. You can choose to continue study participation at your normal scheduled research visits. There may be options to reschedule study visits at a later date, or you can choose to withdraw from your study. We encourage you to talk with your study coordinator about your options for participation.

Visit https://www.dukehealth.org/covid-19-crisis-guidance-research-participants for additional FAQs