



## In-Person Research Safety Guidelines (updated March 2024)

Mahalo nui loa for working to keep our participants, research teams, and communities safe!

In response to the ongoing threat of respiratory disease transmission, the UH Human Studies Program continues to require a **Safety Plan** for all research proposing in-person interaction with participants to prevent the spread of disease in our community.

1. These safety protocols are for all in-person research.
2. Research team members must wear a well-fitting mask that covers nose and mouth ([CDC guidance](#)).
3. Research team members must screen for symptoms and plan accordingly.
4. Encourage research team members to follow CDC vaccination guidance for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV, and the Flu.
5. Consider using well-ventilated rooms or outdoor areas for research interaction.
6. Be prepared to provide research participants with well-fitting mask that covers nose and mouth.

- ★ Guidelines and requirements are subject to change with public health safety conditions.
- ★ Exceptions can be requested based upon research design with justification, and existing safety measures in the research setting, and reflected in the consent form. Please describe what will be done to ensure participant safety including but not limited to the environment, screening precautions, and other safety methods.

- The IRB will continue to protect people at higher risk for severe illness from respiratory disease (i.e. older people - Kupuna), and people with severe underlying medical conditions – refer to [CDC guidelines](#) for complete list of high risk people) by requiring extra protections. Describe extra protection protocols in the Safety Plan.
- Consider a **Health Screening Checklist** including questions such as:
  1. Are you vaccinated? (COVID-19, Flu, etc...)
  2. In the last 14 days, have you experienced sustained close contact (such as a household contact, 'ohana, caregivers and care receivers) with a person with a positive COVID-19 test or who is experiencing respiratory infection symptoms?
  3. In the last 14 days, have you had a fever (greater than 100.4° F), chills, cough, sore throat, fatigue, headache, or diarrhea or cold or flu-like symptoms?
  4. In the last 30 days, have you had a positive COVID-19 test?
  5. Have you traveled recently to any of the [CDC Level 2 – 3 countries](#)?



**Resources:**

**Hawai'i Department of Health COVID Data**

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/current-situation-in-hawaii/>

**CDC COVID Data Tracker**

[https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases\\_percent-covid-deaths](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_percent-covid-deaths)

**World Health Organization Coronavirus (COVID-19) Tracker**

<https://covid19.who.int/>

**CDC Vaccine Information**

<https://www.vaccines.gov/>

**Worldometer Coronavirus**

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

**World Health Organization Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic Information**

[https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019?adgroupsurvey={adgroupsurvey}&gclid=CjwKCAjwkLCkBhA9EiwAka9QRtHhVOnc0DUYXYFC5HIwXpnmM-3QIHophBagCf20dkKhb2hwSWthnRoCnVQQAxD\\_BwE](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019?adgroupsurvey={adgroupsurvey}&gclid=CjwKCAjwkLCkBhA9EiwAka9QRtHhVOnc0DUYXYFC5HIwXpnmM-3QIHophBagCf20dkKhb2hwSWthnRoCnVQQAxD_BwE)