

Guidelines for In-Person Research Interactions on the Clinical Research Unit (CRU)

The guidelines below are for research staff interacting with participants on the CRU.

Research staff:

- For everyone's health and safety, all staff (regardless of their vaccination status) are required to:
 - Self-monitor for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath/chest tightness, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, nasal congestion, headache, severe fatigue/exhaustion, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea). Please refer to the [Employee Symptom Monitoring](#) page on U-Connect for a complete list as it is subject to change.
 - If you develop symptoms, it is important you stay home to reduce the risk of spread until you have a confirmed negative COVID-19 PCR test and have been cleared by your provider and employer.
 - If you have had a COVID-19 positive contact outside of work:
 - If you do not have symptoms (asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic) you can continue working and must notify your employer; however, if you develop any symptoms, even mild, you must immediately remove yourself from work and call your employer to be screened and scheduled for testing.
 - If you do have symptoms or develop symptoms during your shift, do not report to a UW Health facility or leave the facility when symptoms develop, notify your UW Health business owner/supervisor, and contact your employer.
- Check your temperature and monitor for symptoms twice daily.
Please perform one of these checks within 1 hour of your work start time.
- UW Health is requiring **every person** (providers, staff, patients, visitors, etc.) in UW Health facilities to wear a minimum of a barrier mask protection, regardless of vaccination status.
*Please note cloth face masks are **NOT** considered a barrier mask. Please refer to this [link](#) for more information.*
- If interacting with a patient/participant:
 - Patients should be masked during all face-to-face interactions whenever possible.
 - We ask that you wear a mask that is well-fitted (fits securely; covers nose, mouth and chin without gaps; comfortable without frequent adjustments) and effective for source control in all patient interactions.
- Hand hygiene is required prior to entering and exiting the participant's room, before touching a participant, before clean/aseptic procedures, after body fluid exposure/risk, and after touching a patient or their surroundings.
- **Please reach out to the CRU Nurse Manager – Tammy Kiger (tkiger@uwhealth.org) or CRU Clinical Nurse Specialist – Tamara Kempken Mehring (tkempkenmehrings@uwhealth.org) for any questions related to these guidelines.**

See next page for important Visit Prep information...

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Visit Prep:

- Participants with active symptoms of COVID-19 should have their visit rescheduled.
- We recommend calling your participants 1-2 days in advance to update them on our [visitor policy](#) and screen them for COVID-19 (regardless of their vaccination status):
 - Any symptoms of COVID-19 infection (e.g. Fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$, Chills, Cough, Sore throat, Shortness of breath/chest tightness, Loss of taste or smell, Runny nose, Nasal congestion, Headache, Severe fatigue/exhaustion, Muscle pain, Nausea/Vomiting, or Diarrhea)
 - Positive COVID-19 test in the last 10 days
 - Pending COVID-19 test obtained because of symptoms associated with COVID-19
 - If any of the above items are true, their CRU visit should be rescheduled. Please contact the CRU if you have any questions or concerns with delaying the study visit.
 - Please refer to the separate document “COVID-19 Screening Questions” to assist you in the screening process.
- All participants with a planned overnight stay or planned [Aerosol Generating Procedure](#) require a COVID-19 (PCR) test upon arrival for their stay or a test that was collected within 72 hours prior. Please consider testing in advance to prevent delays during their CRU visit.
 - To schedule the COVID-19 test, please call the central scheduling COVID-19 team at (608) 720-5111 and be prepared to share the following information:
 - Patient Name, MRN, and/or Date of Birth
 - Date they need to be tested
 - Study provider’s name
 - Specialty that the procedure or appointment will be occurring in or for
 - Date of planned admission or aerosol generating procedure

Please visit the [COVID-19 hub](#) on U-Connect regularly for the latest updates and <https://coronavirus.uwhealth.org/getting-your-care-safely-at-uw-health-during-the-covid-19-response/> to review current hospital safety measures.