Guidance for the Resumption of Research Operations (R2Ops)

Updated January 6, 2022

SUMMARY OF R2Ops GUIDANCE

1) UAB will continue to require masks indoors to start 2022 and the spring semester regardless of vaccination status. Additional information related to continued masking, availability of vaccinations, and procedures to provide vaccination documentation to Employee Health or Student Health Services, can be found on the UAB United website here.

*Per UAB health system requirement (Jan 6, 2022), all patient facing employees are required to wear a disposable, surgical grade mask (no cloth masks) and wear a face shield. Human subjects researchers who have direct contact with participants should also wear disposable surgical grade masks and face shields starting no later than January 12, 2022.

2) In person COVID-19 screening of human subjects research participants (& support persons) is required. Remote screening 24 hours in advance of an in-person visit is strongly encouraged.

3) COVID-19 testing for research participants who screen positive for COVID-19 is available. a

4) Updates and information regarding isolation and quarantine are found here: https://www.uab.edu/uabunited/

5) If an individual tests COVID-19 positive shortly after being in a UAB research facility (e.g., a laboratory, clinical research space), please contact UAB Employee and/or Student Health Services for follow-up guidance specific to the facility (e.g., cleaning) and other actions for employees/students who may have been exposed.

6) Research-Related Visitors

   a) Participant support persons may attend on-site research study visits, if needed, but must follow UAB Medicine Visitor Guidance found here: https://www.uabmedicine.org/visitor-policy.

   b) Site initiation and monitoring visits should be conducted remotely, but can be conducted in-person following prior approval using the UAB campus visitor protocol found here: https://www.uab.edu/uabunited/visitors/campus-visitor-protocol.


a) UAB COVID-19 Testing for Research Participants

If the participant screens positive and their physician chooses not to proceed with COVID-19 testing, the PI will be responsible for offering COVID-19 testing through UAB Research COVID-19 testing or otherwise meeting testing requirements. To initiate COVID-19 testing for a research participant, a member of the research study team must complete the testing registration e-form found here: COVID Testing for Research Participant Registration

These guidelines are subject to change given ongoing surveillance efforts and updates with public health directives. Please contact Cindy Joiner, PhD MPH RN at cirwin@uabmc.com for specific case-by-case questions not addressed otherwise in the guidance.