Guidance for the Resumption of Research Operations (R2Ops)

Updated August 17, 2021

SUMMARY OF R2Ops GUIDANCE

1) Masking is required of all individuals (including research participants and support persons) in all areas regardless of vaccination status, including all research laboratories and clinics.
   • Double masking and face shields are strongly encouraged during in person human subjects research.

2) Social distancing is strongly encouraged (3 ft or greater).

3) 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.

4) COVID-19 testing for research participants who screen positive for COVID-19 is available.¹

5) A participant who has RNA tested positive for COVID-19 can be reconsidered for research 21 days after the positive COVID-19 result if they are symptom free.

6) If an individual tests COVID-19 positive 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.

7) One support person may attend on-site research study visits, if needed.

8) Site initiation and monitoring visits should be conducted remotely.

¹ 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.