

MEMORANDUM

To: UAB Faculty and Staff

From: Christopher S. Brown, PhD, Vice President for Research
Anupam Agarwal, MD, Co-Chair, UAB Institutional COVID-19 Task Force
Jordan DeMoss, MS, Co-Chair, UAB Institutional COVID-19 Task Force

Date: July 9, 2020

RE: Resumption of Research Operations (R2Ops)—COVID Testing for Human Subjects Research that Screen Positive for COVID-19

Per the UAB human subjects research (HSR) R2Ops guidelines, all research participants are to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms within 24 hours of a scheduled research study visit (remotely) and upon arrival for an in-person study visit. If a participant screens positively for COVID-19, they must be RNA tested for COVID-19 before they can proceed in the research activity—either through their primary care physician OR via the UAB HSR COVID-19 testing process. If the primary care physician oversees COVID-19 testing for the research participant, written documentation of a negative test result will need to be provided by the participant or physician to the research study team within 4 days of testing in order to proceed with research activities. When utilizing the UAB COVID-19 testing process, a member of the research study team must complete the testing registration e-form found here: [COVID Testing for Research Participant Registration](#). Upon completion of the e-form, a nurse from the COVID testing team will contact the research study team to register the research participant for COVID-19 testing. The COVID testing team nurse will also provide detailed instructions on the UAB testing location in addition to what to expect when they confirm the COVID-19 testing appointment. The results of the test will be communicated by the testing team nurse to the research subject and the research team within 24-48 hours. COVID-19 testing will be billed to the participant's health insurance (without a deductible applied) OR will be covered through alternative means (such as through the CARES act funding or otherwise). Research participants will not be billed for testing directly and will not be billed for co-pays, unless the individual is part of an employer-sponsored plan that does not allow co-pays to be waived. If a participant is aware that her/his plan is employer-sponsored, we ask that they confirm co-pay responsibility. No co-pays will be collected at the time of testing. Likewise, sponsored research projects will not be billed for COVID-19 testing as the test results are related to required screening for participation and are not part of the human subjects research. In the event that COVID-19 testing is part of the human subjects research protocol, the COVID-19 testing may be billed to the sponsored research project. Please contact Cindy Joiner, PhD, MPH, RN with questions (205-903-6362, cirwin@uabmc.edu).

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