



University Research Ethics Board

Part of Emergency Procedures - Currently Inactive- Effective May 1, 2023

Please contact ethics@msvu.ca for use or information

COVID-19 Information for In-Person Research Studies

COVID-19 is easily spread by contact with people who have the virus. Please read the following statements carefully and feel free to contact the research team with any questions. Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), which is under the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia Public Health, has put in place measures to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (or **COVID-19**); however MSVU cannot guarantee that any individual attending the MSVU campus, using MSVU facilities, or participating in activities organized by MSVU, whether on-campus or off-campus will not become infected with COVID-19, which can result in severe illness. If you are feeling unwell or experiencing **any** potential COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and notify a member of the research team that you cannot attend.

Self-Screening

COVID-19 infection can result in severe illness (present and future), medical expenses, loss of income and death. Research participants should monitor the most current information from the Government of Nova Scotia at the following link: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/when-to-see-help/#symptoms>. The government of Canada provides [information on COVID-19 risks and prevention](#) and on taking care of your [mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Safety Procedures for Participants

We ask that you follow Nova Scotia Public Health directives, as well, for the safety of participants and researchers. Because you are coming to the MSVU campus, and the researcher may need to be closer to you than the recommended 2 metre distance, the following safety protocols must be followed:

- The day before your visit, a member of the research team may contact you to answer questions for a COVID-19 screening assessment. On the day of your visit, a researcher may conduct the screening again.
- Please wash or sanitize your hands upon arrival. Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Effective September 4, 2022, masks are required. Please wear a mask or face covering. Masks will be provided if you lack one.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid physical contact with other individuals to the extent possible.
- Advise a researcher as soon as possible if you believe a safety measure is not being taken, or that your safety is at risk.

What MSVU is Doing to Reduce Risk

To reduce the possibility of COVID-19 exposure, especially if study procedures cannot maintain 2-metre distancing, we have implemented the following safety procedures recommended by our Safety Office and Public Health:

- regular handwashing and use of gloves by all research team members and the availability and use of hand sanitizer for study participants and researchers,
- sanitizing of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment and increased cleaning of washrooms and other shared spaces,
- scheduling and limits to reduce occupancy in buildings and laboratories, floor markings and signage to

- encourage physical distancing in shared spaces,
- wearing of face masks/face coverings, and where necessary, use of face shields, lab coats, goggles, and plexiglass barriers continues to be strongly recommended.

Please do everything you can to follow these health-related procedures and directives, to protect yourself and others. If you are from a vulnerable group with respect to COVID-19 (e.g., an older adult; underlying medical conditions; or a compromised immune system), please discuss your participation with the research team before consenting. You are under no obligation to participate and there are no consequences to you if you change your mind about participating in the research.

Participant Acknowledgement

You are invited to attend in-person research study visit(s) on a voluntary basis. You are under no obligation to attend, and at any time you can change your mind, stop participating or withdraw from the study by notifying the researcher. *This letter is intended to provide you with the information about risks of COVID-19 exposure and related safety measures that will assist you in making a decision to come to the research site for in-person research study visit(s).* You are not waiving your rights or releasing the investigator(s) or any institution(s) from their legal and professional responsibilities. If you have any questions about the study, please contact the research team. Please save and keep a copy of this information for your own files.

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