**COVID-19 Information for In-Person McMaster University Research at a Non-McMaster Location**

**[Instructions for Researchers: Highlighted text are sections of the letter where you will need to provide and/or revise information. Please make edits as required and be sure to delete any highlighted instruction language]**

Study Title: [study title]

COVID-19 Risks

There remains a risk of exposure to COVID-19 from in-person contact. This includes any contact resulting from attending a research study in-person, where you will be in proximity to researchers, and potentially other people while travelling to the study site. Depending on the study, you may be in proximity to other research participants. There is also the risk of contracting the virus and transmitting it to third parties, including family members.

COVID-19 Precautions

The location for this study, [name the study location], is under the jurisdiction of [Public Health Ontario/name of other public health authority]. The researchers will be following all the COVID-19 precautions recommended and required by the local health authority. There may be additional precautions required by the specific location/building where the study is taking place.

COVID-19 precautions in place for this study include; [list the COVID-19 precautions that will be implemented per the local public health requirements and recommendations and/or per requirements at the study site (e.g., wearing a face-covering or mask, maintaining 2m distance, sanitizing surfaces/equipment). Note that if the local setting does not have any required or recommended precautions, the REB may consult with EOHSS to determine if certain precautions should still be implemented for the study to reduce risks to participants].

[NOTE: Only include the statement below if the local requirements or recommendations do not include masking. The masking option should still be presented in order to respect research participants and be inclusive of those more vulnerable to COVID-19. Note that the REB may consult EOHSS during the review to determine if masking should still be included for all participants.]

Although wearing a mask is not required at this study location, you are still welcome to wear a mask yourself and request that the researcher wear a mask during the study.

Attending the Study

**[If your study is in Ontario, include the following paragraph, otherwise delete it] On the planned day of your appointment, if you are feeling unwell, have a confirmed cased of COVID-19 or live with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, then please use the** [**Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment**](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/) **tool to determine whether you should reschedule your appointment. If you are directed by the tool to self-isolate, please contact the researcher.**

**[If your study is outside Ontario, include the following paragraph, otherwise delete it] On the planned day of your appointment, if you are feeling unwell, have a confirmed cased of COVID-19 or live with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, then please contact the researcher to reschedule your appointment.**

To reschedule your appointment or ask any questions about this study’s COVID-19 precautions, please contact [researcher name] at [phone and/or email].

Vaccination Mandate

[If the study location (e.g., hospital, school, private company, etc.) has a vaccination mandate for anyone attending the location then that may apply to your research participants as well. If this is applicable to your study, then explain the vaccine requirements for the study location in this section. If this is not applicable, then delete this section from the letter.]

Collection of Contact Information

In addition to the above, the McMaster University researchers will be collecting personal contact information that will be retained to support contact tracing, if required by the local public health authorities. Contact information will be stored securely and separately from research data, then destroyed within a period of SPECIFY TIME. [NOTE: Contact the public health unit at the location(s) of the fieldwork research and adjust/remove this section based on whether you are required to retain contact information and, if required, the length of time you need to retain the information.]

Note that precautions may change based on the current risk level of COVID-19. The researcher will inform you, prior to your appointment, if any of the above information has changed after this letter was sent to you.