Harvard University

# **Detailed Guidance for Human Subject Research: Blood Sampling**

This is specific guidance for preparing, operating, cleaning, storage, and analysis for blood sampling. In addition to the device specific procedures illustrated below, general human subject research guidance and research lab specific guidance will be followed during all research activities.

**Pre-Visit Screening Procedures**

* Call the participant and complete the Coronavirus Pre-Visit Screening Form using the participant script prior to visit.
* All study team members complete Coronavirus Screening Form.

**General Procedures**

* Blood sampling necessitates close but short-term proximity between the participant and a study team member. All blood sampling will be done using a fingerstick (no intravenous sampling is requested).
* Only one study team member and one participant will be present.
* All study team members and the participant wash their hands upon arrival.
* The study team member and the participant wear university-supplied surgical-grade facemasks at all times. The study team member will also wear gloves, goggles, a face shield, and a lab coat.
* If possible, the study team member and the participant face opposite directions when close contact occurs.
* All materials are handled on a clean/sanitized surface, e.g. desks or benches. Anything below the waist level is considered as unclean surfaces.

**Procedures for Blood Sampling**

* Preparation
	1. The blood sampling area will be extensively disinfected before participant arrival.
	2. All disposable blood sampling equipment will be laid out on a bench pad before participant arrival.
* Operation
	1. During the blood sampling protocol, a fingerstick, the participant will be asked to sit down and give their hand to the experimenter while turning his/her head away from the experimenter for the duration of the sample collection.
	2. Once the sample has been taken, the experimenter will give the participant a bandage and move 6 ft away to minimize the time spent in close proximity.
* Cleaning
	1. After the sample has been spun down and aliquoted into Eppendorf tubes, the entire area will be disinfected and the bench-pad with all of the disposable products used to administer the fingerstick will be placed in a biohazard bin. Sharps will continue to be placed in the sharps waste disposal bins near workspaces.
	2. Re-useable products (Handheld Glucometer, Hemoglobin Analyzer and Hematocrit reader) will be disinfected and placed in a sealable container. Add time and date of experiment to the cleaning log.
	3. Centrifuge equipment will be partially disassembled (rotors will be removed) and disinfected with Lysol disinfecting wipes/bleach or equivalent antiseptic.
* Storage
	1. Serum samples will be stored in a separate -80C freezer in a cardboard specimen box that will itself be placed in a resealable plastic container.
	2. If a participant tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 within 7 days of their visit, their samples will be mixed with bleach and let stand for 1 hr. They will then be discarded in biohazard waste bins for incineration.
* Analysis
	1. All handling and analysis of the samples will take place with the same PPE requirements (explained above) as during the blood sample itself.

**COMS Registration**

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