**Important Information about COVID-19 and Research Participation at Harvard University**

COVID-19 refers to the Coronavirus that is being spread across people in our communities. At Harvard University, our primary responsibility related to research is to protect the safety of our research participants. We need to provide you with important information about COVID-19, and to tell you about ways your study participation might change because of COVID-19 related risk.

It is important that you consider the following information to determine if study participation is right for you at this time.

**How is COVID-19 spread?** COVID-19 is a respiratory virus spread by respiratory droplets, mainly from person-to-person. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another (especially less than 6 feet). It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object (e.g. a doorknob or counter surface) that has the virus on it, then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. It is important to understand that since study participation may include increased travel outside of your home and increased exposure to others within a clinical care environment or research site, it may increase your exposure to COVID-19.

**What are the risks of COVID-19?** For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Individuals over 60 and with chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes and lung disease have the highest rates of severe disease from the infection although serious illness is found in some cases from children and younger adults as well. CDC guidelines on risk factors can be found here. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

**How could your participation in this research change as a result of COVID-19?** Our team has developed detailed plans for minimizing COVID-19 transmission risk. We ask all researchers and participants if they have the symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with anyone who has or had COVID-19. If possible, we limit the number of times you have to come to a research site. During your research visits, we try to reduce the time you are exposed to other people as much as possible and all researchers wear face coverings. We thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces and equipment before and after visits. If you are suspected to be positive for COVID-19, then we will advise to cancel the visit. All researchers returning to work at Harvard get tested for COVID-19 in accordance with [Harvard’s testing guidelines](https://www.harvard.edu/coronavirus/testing-tracing).

**How can you best prepare for your study visit?** Please consider the following:

* If you do not feel well, contact the study team as soon as you can and before you arrive.
* Always wear a face covering when leaving your home.
* Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds on arrival to the study.
* We recommend you avoid public transportation.
* Reserved parking is available and we can reimburse you for travel (taxi or Lyft/Uber).
* Bring your own water and snacks as we are unable to provide this to you at this time.

As reminder, your participation in our study is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to participate. If you do choose to be in the study, you may subsequently withdraw from it at any time for any reason without penalty or consequences of any kind. If you have questions about COVID-19 and your participation in research, please talk to the study team. <INSERT name HERE> can be contacted at <INSERT email HERE> or <INSERT number HERE>. We ask that you acknowledge you have read and understand this information and return this form electronically to study team via email above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_