

Changes at the BCCH MRI Research Facility during COVID-19: For Researchers

To address safety concerns and requirements related to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCCH MRI Research Facility has implemented new health safety protocols, and procedures have changed. Please share this information with all members of your study team, and read the contents carefully before booking a research MRI scan at our facility. Thank you!

Restricted Access

At this time, the BCCH MRI Research Facility will monitor and limit the total number of people inside the facility and in each room. Maximum Occupancy limits for each area are posted. Only essential personnel will be allowed into the MRI Research Facility.

For the safety of our participants and to allow for appropriate physical distancing:

- No unannounced drop-in visits will be permitted within the Facility
- Only approved, safety trained people who have a scheduled appointment will be allowed into the MRI Control area (Zone 3)

We are limiting the number of participants in the facility to 2 (plus necessary accompanying people), to maintain appropriate physical distancing. The majority of the time there will be only 1 participant in the building; however, if the next subject arrives slightly early, they will be escorted to a separate participant room. **Please do not show up early for your scheduled appointment time.**

Research assistants who are bringing subjects to the MRI Research Facility who are not directly involved in MRI scanning will not be allowed inside the building.

By special arrangement made in advance, some cognitive assessments or prep may be performed by study teams in the Research MRI Facility if this reduces or eliminates the need for a participant to visit other areas of the BCCH Campus. These arrangements may be made through 3tmri@bcchr.ca

In order to facilitate physical distancing and maintain appropriate approved occupancy for the building, swipe card access to the BCCH MRI Research Facility has been limited to staff members only. All visitors, including research teams, must ring the front door bell to enter.

Booking\Screening

- 1) Study teams are responsible for conducting COVID pre-screening for each participant. **All researchers must fill out a COVID pre-screening form (attached) for the Participant and any Research staff attending an MRI scan.** If the Participant, parent, and attending research staff have all answered "No" to all screening questions, the study team may proceed to book an MRI.

- 2) If the MRI booking was made greater than approximately 7 days before the appointment, the Researcher is required to check in with the participant by phone in advance of the appointment to perform the Secondary COVID Screen and Initial MRI Screening section of the form.
**If a participant is booked for MRI within approximately 7 days or less, only the COVID Booking Screen and MRI Screen is required.
- 3) Upon arrival of the Participant, accompanying person and researcher must provide the previous documentation of COVID Screening and be screened a final time to confirm there are no symptoms currently. Please bring the COVID Pre-Screening Form with you.

To minimize shared spaces, such as hallways and the entryway in the MRI Facility, we are requiring bookings to be 30 minutes between sessions to allow for the previous participant and research team member to exit the building, the cleaning of surfaces and the arrival of the next participant.

Facility Attire:

For everyone's safety, BCCH MRI Research Facility staff working with participants will change into clean scrubs while in the MRI Facility, and wear masks and goggles while interacting with participants when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Participants or accompanying persons may be asked to wear a mask as well.

In compliance with PHSA COVID-19 policies intended to reduce the spread of any germs and ensure proper infection control and health safety, the following guidelines are in place for all participants and staff:

- Only medical grade masks may be worn (i.e., no home-made masks)
- Hair must be kept back and out of face with a non-metallic hair tie or accessories
- No rings or other jewelry on hands or face may be worn
- No nail polish
- At this time, non essential items such as peripheral equipment not necessary for an MRI scan or stuffed animals are not permitted in the MRI Control Room (Zone 3)

Arrival at the BCCH MRI Research Facility

Participants must arrive no earlier than 25 minutes before their MRI time to allow for the previous participant to exit the building and cleaning of surfaces. Anyone arriving earlier will be asked to return at the designated timeline.

All participants and staff must use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the facility.

Research group will wait at the front desk and provide the COVID screening form and will be screened a final time by Facility staff.

Patients will be placed in the larger Multipurpose Room (first door on the left). The small interview room will only be used if a second participant group is in the building.

MRI Imaging

Once a participant is ready for the MRI Second Screening:

- 1) The researcher will use the phone at the front desk to call 7562 to inform the Technologist that the participant is ready.
- 2) A safety-trained researcher who is qualified to go into the MRI Control room will knock on the MRI Control Room door and the Technologist will unlock it from the inside.
- 3) The researcher will open the door and set the screening form down on the counter, sanitize their hands, give a MRI screening report and the MRI Study code to the Technologist.
- 4) The researcher will wait in the MRI control room in a designated spot distanced from the MRI console, and the MRI Tech will leave to screen the patient.
- 5) The MRI Technologist will perform the second screening of the participant in the interview room and bring the participant to the control room. Both individuals will sanitize their hands once they are in the control room.

Departure

When the MRI scan is complete, we ask that the participant, family and researchers leave the Facility promptly to allow for cleaning and to enable the next participant to enter the building.

It would be appreciated if Research groups could wipe down areas they noted had been used by their group.

All persons leaving the facility will be reminded to use hand sanitizer as they exit.