**When and how should I audit the standard protections I am offering to research participants?**

You should conduct an audit when preparing or modifying a protocol with in-person procedures. You should periodically audit your in-person research during the COVID-19 pandemic. See table on page 2.

Review all current guidance from public health organizations, State and local ordinance, and institutional sources. An audit of current guidance can help design procedures that meet standard protections as the pandemic situation evolves or local conditions change. The results of an audit are for the study team records and should not be submitted to the IRB.

**What are the current COVID-19 transmission levels?**

Consult the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view) for research conducted in the United States.

If additional information is needed, consult the [Georgia Department of Public Health Daily Status Report](https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report) for research conducted in Georgia.

Consult the [WHO Coronavirus Dashboard](https://covid19.who.int/table) for research conducted outside the United States.

**Does my target population include individuals at increased risk of severe illness?**

Participants who are [fully vaccinated](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html) are not at increased risk of severe illness unless they have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system.

If participants are not fully vaccinated, consider excluding the following groups, unless they are necessary to conduct the research:

[Older Adults](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html)

[Adults of Any Age with Certain Medical Conditions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html)

[Children with Certain Underlying Conditions](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html" \l "ChildrenAndTeens)

**Does my target population include individuals who are under a Shelter in Place order?**

In Georgia, go to the Governor’s [2021 Executive Orders](https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2021-executive-orders), and consult the most recent order titled “Providing additional guidance for Empowering a Healthy Georgia in response to COVID-19.” See Section III. Sheltering in Place. If that section is not present, there is no current Shelter in Place order. In other locations, consult the local government or public health authority.

**How do I reduce the risk of person-to-person transmission?**

Consult CDC guidance on [personal protective equipment (PPE)](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/standard-precautions.html), [social distancing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html), [masks](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html), and [hand sanitation.](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html)

**How do I reduce the risk of aerosol transmission?**

[Follow traffic flow and space limitations in campus building](https://coronavirus.uga.edu/faq/who-is-responsible-for-determining-traffic-flow-and-space-limitations-in-buildings/) and consult with [UGA Facilities Management Division](https://fmd.uga.edu/buildinghvac/) about your building’s HVAC system.

**How do I clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces?**

Consult [EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19)

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| **Date Last Checked** | **Transmission Level** | **Target Population** | **Shelter in Place** | **Screening** | **Person-to-Person** | **Aerosol** | **Surfaces** |
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