

COVID 19 Information Sheet **For Human Subject Participants**

At the Georgia Institute of Technology, our goal is to provide a safe environment for our research participants, researchers, and staff. Based on guidelines from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH), we are providing you with current information about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. Please review the information provided below while considering participation in any human subjects research study. This will help us minimize the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 within and beyond the Georgia Tech community. Please consult the study team to ask any questions you may have about COVID-19 and the research study.

How does COVID-19 affect your participation in a research study at Georgia Tech? To minimize risk to you and others, you may be asked some questions related to COVID-19 symptoms and undergo a temperature check or other screening as required by the Institute. You are encouraged to arrive by yourself at the research location. Please inform the research study team, if you need to bring a caregiver with you or if you have mobility issues or other special needs. Upon your arrival at the research site, you may be asked to wait in your car until the research study team member is ready to see you. These measures are to reduce the number of occupants at the research location. You will be required to use the sanitizer upon entry and exit from the research location. There will be a sanitizer stations available at the entrance and in other areas throughout the building. You will be required to wear a clean face covering at all times within the research location. A one-time use surgical mask will be provided to you. If you are unable to wear one because of health issues, please inform the research study team at the time of phone screening. A trained member of the research staff will meet you at the entrance and you will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms via the screening questionnaire. We will also take physical readings such as Infra-Red non-touch thermometer. If you are suspected to be positive for COVID-19, safety guidelines may require that we postpone or cancel your participation in the research study.

Researchers, participants, caregivers (if applicable) and legal guardian/parents are required to participate in contact tracing. If any individual tests positive for COVID-19 Version 11-02-2020 Georgia Institute of Technology within 14 days of being physically present in a Georgia Tech research facility, they must contact the contact person named in the consent form or Stamps Health Services to report the positive test result for COVID-19. If the contact person for the study is informed by a subject that they have tested positive for COVID-19, the information will be forwarded to Stamps Health Services. In accordance with Institute guidance, Stamps Health Services will notify the Georgia Department of Public Health for possible contact tracing.

How does COVID-19 Spread? The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- (a) Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - (b) Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
 - (c) These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - (d) COVID-19 can be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.
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- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
 - The virus is thought to [spread mainly from person-to-person](#).
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- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Wash your hands often

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.** If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- **Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home.**
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - [Stay at least 6 feet \(about 2 arms' length\) from other people.](#)
 - Do not gather in groups.
 - Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.](#)

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a [cloth face cover](#) when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Monitor Your Health

- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms of COVID-19](#).
 - Especially important if you are [running essential errands](#), going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a [physical distance of 6 feet](#).
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.
 - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.

People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, **older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions** might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- [People 65 years and older](#)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with [underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled](#), including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

What are the symptoms? Current understanding is that people with COVID-19 can have mild to severe symptoms. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache

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- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC continues to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)