

COVID-19: BRI FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated: Sept 7, 2022

***** Please note that this FAQ will be updated regularly to reflect the hospital's latest guidance based on current public health measures *****

This resource has been created to answer frequently asked questions about COVID-19 as it relates specifically to the Bloorview Research Institute. If you have any additional questions, please speak to your lab manager or to Mani Kang, director of research operations, at mkang@hollandbloorview.ca. For hospital-related COVID19 updates please refer to the staff COVID19 resources [web page](#) or the weekly all-staff COVID19 bulletin.

As of June 27th, 2022, the hospital has implemented significant easing of infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures as outlined in COVID19 bulletin #180 posted on [HB Connect](#).

This BRI FAQ has been updated to reflect all the changes to the hospital's infection prevention and control guidance as it pertains to the research institute.

Research Onsite

I am a scientist/researcher/trainee. What is the procedure for onsite research visits for clients and their families?

- All research participants and their caregivers coming to the hospital will undergo screening at the door. Please ask the research participants and their caregivers to complete the pre-screening form available on the Holland Bloorview's [home page](#) 24-hours prior to their appointment to expedite the entry process. For more details on the hospital's current screening procedures, please download the "Managing COVID Screening in Ambulatory Visits" flowchart found on our online BRI resource portal [here](#).
- Participants and visitors must adhere to the PPE directives as outlined by the hospital-at-large.
- **Researchers should anticipate potential delays due to line-ups to enter the hospital or cancellations of research visits due to failed screening.**

- Please remember to use the correct levels of PPE (e.g., level 1 or 3 mask required). Staff can continue to wear eye protection based on their own point of care risk assessment. We have ample supply of personal protective equipment.

What is the language I should use with research participants about our COVID19 IPAC protocols?

- *“Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and taking precautions to ensure the safety for all clients, families, staff, volunteers, and students as the situation evolves.*
- *Clients and families coming to Holland Bloorview can expect some changes when they arrive to the hospital from what they are accustomed to. All precautions and measures implemented by the hospital have been put into place to ensure the safety of everyone in our community.*
- *Please complete your online self-screening at www.hollandbloorview.ca 24 hours prior to attending on-site at the hospital. If you require an exception to the family and caregiver policy, please contact visitorrequest@hollandbloorview.ca or calling 416-425-6220 ext. 3115 at least 48 hours before the appointment.”*

When do I need to register research participants on REDCAP before they come onsite?

- You will need to register via REDCAP all onsite research participants by 11 p.m. the night before their appointment.
 - Enter their full name, name of the caregivers (if applicable) and the name of the researcher that will meet the participant.
 - Participants not on the entry list may not be permitted entry into the hospital.
 - REDCAP Link: <https://redcap.hollandbloorview.ca/surveys/?s=9NMREYWRN7>
- Please keep in mind the list of research participants for a particular day is sent to the screening team automatically at 12:05 a.m. For example, if you have a client coming in for a research visit on Tuesday at 9 a.m., you need to register them by Monday at 11 p.m. The client’s name will be on a list generated on Tuesday at 12:05 a.m. for the screening team.
- **Registering all participant visits is MANDATORY, and screening reserves the right to turn away your participant at the door at their own discretion.** This includes appointments at any time and day of the week including weekends. Please ensure you are doing your part to avoid any unnecessary burden for our participants and their families.

How many people can accompany a research participant?

- Up to four people can accompany a research participant. This may include up to two caregivers over the age of 16 and up to two other loved ones (e.g. siblings) between 30 months and 16 years. Young children under 30 months are not included in the visitor count.

Are there any restrictions to in-person research activities at BRI?

- No, at this time, the BRI has not implemented any restrictions to in-person research activities. We, along with other TAHSN research institutes, are continuing to monitor the situation and are in regular communication with our peer hospitals. We will communicate to scientists and researchers if anything changes.

What are the rules around physical distancing with a research participant now?

- You should always wear your mask when interacting with a research participant if you are 2 meters apart or closer.

What do I do if a vendor is coming onsite and I'm meeting them?

- You will need to enter their full name via [REDCAP](#) 24 hours in advance so they are on the screener's list.
- Follow the same registration procedure as research participants.

IPAC Guidance

What level of masks will BRI staff wear now?

- Research staff who are client-facing will continue to wear level 3 masks.
- Non-client facing research staff can choose to wear a level 1 or 3 mask.
- These masks are available at the main entrance.
- Masking is also required for research participants from 2.5 years (30 months) and up. This has been lowered from age 6.

What is the current guidance around holding meetings in-person at the research institute?

- Capacity limits in meeting rooms have been removed except those related to fire code adherence.
- Please refrain from eating or drinking (except for sips of water/tea/coffee etc.) in meetings.
- Always wear your mask or appropriate PPE.

Do I need to wear a mask at all times in the office if my desk sits in an open office space?

- All staff who work in pods or stations where it is not possible to maintain six feet/two metres of physical distance from colleagues must wear masks at all times. Remember to also practice hand hygiene and avoid prolonged contact.

Am I permitted to eat at my desk and drink beverages?

- You can take sips of a beverage (water, coffee, tea for example) but please put your mask back on as soon as you're done. You should refrain from eating any meals or snacks at your workstation.

Do we have good ventilation in the office? I'm concerned that we can't open any windows to bring in fresh air from the outside.

- Yes, the hospital has upgraded its ventilation and filtration systems by now supplying mostly fresh air (73%) into the BRI office along with some mixed air (23%). This air is then filtered twice through HEPA filters in all of our air-handling units.

What PPE rules should we be following when eating our meals in the kitchen?

- While in the kitchen, please follow these guidelines:
 - Please keep 6 feet/2 metres apart from others while eating with your masks off
 - Place your mask on a clean paper towel or in a clean container when not worn
 - Sit in designated spots when eating
 - Dispose of all garbage in the proper receptacles
 - Wipe up any spills after using the microwave
 - Sanitize your hands before and after you are finished eating
 - Do not leave food/drinks in the staff fridge for more than 2 days

If you have other questions/concerns, please contact Mani Kang, Director of Research Operations, at mkang@hollandbloorview.ca

For Holland Bloorview's latest updates on COVID-19, visit: www.hollandbloorview.ca

