

MRI procedures at AMRIS Facility 3T scanners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure safe MRI examination of research subjects during the COVID-19 pandemic, the following guidelines have been established in accordance with [ACR](#), [NIH](#), [CDC](#) and UF ([CTSI](#), [OCR](#), [College of Medicine](#) and [EH&S](#)) in order to minimize the risk of exposure to the coronavirus and to prevent infection of staff, users and research subjects.

Pre-examination screening

Prior to arriving at the MRI facility, subjects must be pre-screened for COVID-19. This includes verifying that the subject does not have a temperature over 100.4 F (38 C) or other symptoms related to COVID-19 and has not been in close contact with someone who has been confirmed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

Example of questions to ask the subjects:

1. *Do you have a fever (greater than 100.4 F or 38.0 C) OR symptoms of lower respirations, cough, shortness of breath, difficult breathing and/or sore throat?*
 - a. *If yes to #1, what symptoms do you have?*
2. *Have you recently traveled to an area with known local spread of COVID-19?*
3. *Have you come into close contact (within 6 feet) with someone who has a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 14 days?*
 - a. *If yes to #3, how many days ago was that contact*
 - b. *If yes to #3, where was that contact*

If the answer is **Yes** to any of these questions, it **will prevent** the subject from being scanned unless they are tested for the virus. If the subject did travel to a known area of COVID-19, but it was more than 14 days prior to subject examination and the subject is symptom free, the examination **will be allowed**. A list of symptoms is provided below and flyers from CDC are to be posted in the control rooms

- Subject with the following symptoms or in a combination may have [COVID-19 according to the CDC](#) and will not be allowed in the AMRIS 3T facility.
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fever or chills
- Or at least two of these symptoms:
- Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain or body aches
 - Chills
 - Fatigue
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Headache

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

- No subjects that have tested positive or are [persons under investigation \(PUI\)](#) for COVID-19 are allowed to be scanned at AMRIS 3T facility. These subjects need to be cleared by a medical doctor before being allowed in to the MRI suites.
- **It is expected that every research group provides their study subject and accompanying lab member or parent/guardian with an MRI safe face mask (i.e. no metal frame).** The AMRIS Facility will have limited supplies as backup (see below for appropriate PPE).

The AMRIS facility technologists will verify that the pre-examination steps are performed before arrival and check that face masks are safe.

Cleaning of scanners and AMRIS Facility rooms

- Between each subject scan, all surfaces in contact with the subject will be wiped down using appropriate MR vendor-approved disinfection wipes following a clockwise, linear, top to bottom pattern. This includes the MR table, coils, magnet bore, button boxes, “squeeze” ball, door handles, table tops, chairs, and benches, etc. **Any individual lab-owned equipment used during the MR examination is the responsibility of respective lab group to ensure it is disinfected appropriately before and after use.**
- At the end of the day, all surfaces in the MR control rooms and magnet will be wiped down.
- **To accommodate for the extra time needed to implement the cleaning protocols and subject preparation a 15- 30 min gap may be scheduled between subjects.**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All research staff in AMRIS patient-facing areas are as of August 28, 2020 required to wear surgical masks and eye protection (face shields, full-length visors, goggles or safety glasses). This includes the Philips and Siemens magnet and control rooms and subject screening rooms. Cloth masks alone are no longer permitted. Cloth masks can be worn under the 3-ply ear loop masks if so desired. These requirements also pertain to any accompanied staff that will be in the MRI control rooms and magnet rooms. For more information see OCR PPE requirements updates: <https://clinicalresearch.ctsi.ufl.edu/2020/08/28/updates-to-ppe-requirements/>
- **Each group needs to provide masks for its staff and subjects.** The AMRIS Facility has a limited supply of masks and face shields that will not be sufficient for everyone coming into the facility.
- MRI examinations with **non-MR Conditional** masks are strongly discouraged.
- Any metal strips in the surgical masks need to be removed prior to arriving to the MR suite. Your technologist will ensure no metals are in the masks. Tape may be used instead of metallic components to replace the function of the metal components, if this is necessary to maintain the intended function of the mask.
- All technologist will be using high filtration masks or appropriate face masks and gloves during preparation of subjects, once examination is complete and during cleaning of the magnet.
- Any expired PPE will be discarded in the garbage receptacles.
- If possible, participants should wear MRI safe facemasks inside the magnet during scanning, however it is not required due to constraints of some coils and studies. Participants who will not wear a mask in the

magnet due its impact on scanning should keep the mask on as long as possible during the scan preparation. When instructed by the MRI technologist, the participant should put the mask in a provided bin, hang it on a provided hook, or appropriately discard it. After the examination, the facemask needs to be put on as soon as the subject sits up on the MRI table to minimize time without a mask.

Physical distancing in MRI facility

- Due to limited space in MR control rooms, waiting rooms, and pre-examination rooms, only one person will be allowed to join the subject, with the following exceptions; i) the subject is a minor where a parent or guardian is needed or ii) special assistance is needed to complete the MRI examination. Everyone needs to wear face masks and follow general CDC and UF guidelines on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

These recommendations are subject to change as we learn how to perform examinations in a safe yet practical way and as guidelines are updated from UF, federal, and state agencies. Notifications will be sent out accordingly.

The 3 T MRI Team