COVID-19 and Human Subjects Research

The University of Missouri–St. Louis Institutional Review Board (IRB) has updated its COVID-19 and Human Subjects Research policy to be in alignment with the UMSL Face Covering and Social Distancing Policy that was effective on May 25, 2021. In alignment with CDC and St. Louis County Health guidelines, the University of Missouri–St. Louis no longer requires fully vaccinated students, faculty, staff and visitors to wear face coverings or maintain social distancing when entering or occupying university owned, operated or managed facilities and outdoor areas.

People who are not fully vaccinated (those who are not at least two weeks post-completion of a vaccination series) remain at risk of contracting and transmitting the virus. To protect their own health and the health of people around them, it is vital that those not fully vaccinated continue to wear a face covering when on campus, practice social distancing, and maintain other CDC-recommended measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Per the policy, under certain circumstances, individuals will continue to be required to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing regardless of vaccination status.** For example:

- Individuals must follow applicable federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including individual business and workplace policies when engaged in university business or educational programs.

- Healthcare professionals are required to follow current CDC guidance for infection prevention and control within all UMSL healthcare and clinical settings.

- Those engaging with youth under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for vaccination. For example, conducting research studies with youth.

As COVID-19 infection and guidance evolves, IRB recommendations pertaining to Human Subjects Research will remain aligned and consistent with UMSL and Federal Guidance as revised.

Contact for questions:
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UMSL IRB:
https://www.umsl.edu/services/ora/Compliance/human-subjects-irb.html