

NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE

COVID-19 SAFETY INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

The New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI) is committed to minimizing risk to research participants and staff posed by coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Specifically, we are taking the following steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 to our patients and staff:

All research at NYSPI has been modified to reduce in-person visits and procedures.

- We now use technology (telephone and computer) to perform all possible research procedures (such as obtaining consent, clinical interviews, symptom scales, and other tests) remotely.
- We are recommending that only tests and procedures that cannot be performed remotely should take place in-person. If you prefer an in-person meeting for a specific visit or procedure, we encourage you to discuss this possibility with the study team.

We are monitoring research participants and staff for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

- You will be contacted by study staff on the day prior to your visits and asked whether you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Upon your arrival to NYSPI, we will again ask you questions about any possible COVID-19 symptoms and take your temperature.
- If you are having any symptoms of COVID-19, we will postpone your visit and recommend you see a medical professional for evaluation.
- All staff are required to self-monitor themselves for any possible symptoms of COVID-19 and are instructed to stay home and not come to work if they are sick in any way.

We are taking extra precautions at NYSPI to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection.

- When you enter NYSPI, you are required to wear a face covering. If you do not have one, you will be given a surgical face mask.
- Staff will wear masks and other personal protective equipment as appropriate to the procedure (e.g., gowns, gloves).
- You will be asked to maintain physical distancing (at least 6 feet space between you and other people) while at NYSPI where possible, unless specific research procedures require temporarily being closer to study staff.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be provided at the building entrance and many other areas.
- We are restricting visitor access to only those who are essential for our participants' care. Visitors will be screened for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry and will be asked to wear face coverings and limit their movement within NYSPI.

We have increased our routine cleaning and disinfection procedures in order to further protect research participants and staff from COVID-19 at NYSPI.

- All equipment used by participants (e.g., MRI scanner machine) will continue to be thoroughly disinfected before and after each participant's use.

Please call your study's contact person, [TO BE FILLED IN BY STUDY], at [TO BE FILLED IN BY STUDY] if you have any questions.

