

UC Merced Institutional Review Board (IRB) COVID Matrix for Face Coverings

[Face Covering requirements](#) are based on the [COVID-19 Community Levels per CDC for Merced County](#). For more information please visit UC Merced's [Do Your Part](#) website.

Transmission Level	Face Covering Requirement	Screening procedures
High Transmission Level	All indoor activities will require face coverings.	Screening procedures required
Medium Transmission Level	Research within classrooms require face coverings. All other indoor activities, face coverings are strongly encouraged.	Screening procedures required
Low Transmission Level	Face coverings are not required but are strongly encouraged.	Screening procedures required

**For in-person human subjects research studies conducted outside of Merced County the community level will be determined by the county in which the research is conducted.*

When face coverings are required, the following are exempt situations:

- While eating or drinking
- Children under age 2
- Persons with a medical or mental health condition or developmental disability that prevents wearing a face covering
- Anyone performing a specific task that cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering. This exception is limited to the time period in which such tasks are actually being performed

Pre-Screening

All subjects attending a scheduled appointment for research-related purposes must be pre-screened via telephone prior to their in-person visit. Using the pre-screening checklist below, if the subject has not had or been ordered to any of the listed conditions, the in-person visit may proceed. However, the study participant will be

required to have additional in- person screening upon arrival and all risk mitigation protocols must be adhered to. If the subject has had or been ordered to any of the listed conditions, the researcher must terminate the in-person visit. Study personnel are responsible for maintaining a record of completed pre-screening checklists for all study participants. Audits to ensure compliance may occur. Adult participants should answer pre-screening questions for themselves. Parents/legal guardians should answer pre-screening questions for minors. All academic appointees, researchers, faculty and staff (including student employees) returning to campus must comply with the face mask requirements.

Pre-Screening Checklist for Research Subjects by phone prior to AND at the time of arrival on campus – For each individual subject:

The subject may participate in a research visit only if they have not:

- Had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 30 days.
- Had contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days.
- Had a fever, cough, headache, diarrhea, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of smell of taste in the past 10 days.
- Been ordered to quarantine or self-isolate by physician or government

If the subject has not had or been ordered to any of the above the subject is eligible for the in-person visit.

If the subject has had or been ordered to any of the above, the researcher must terminate the in-person visit.