

OPENING OF Dynamic Imaging Science Center (DISC)

This document details procedures that shall be adhered to by researchers doing MR scans involving volunteer scan participants to ensure the safety of research subjects and Center personnel.

The measures outlined in this document are meant to mitigate the risk of infection at DISC as much as possible. However, every interaction must be viewed as if it might be **taking place with a silent spreader**. This assumption governs all steps outlined below.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

- Medical-grade or respirator masks shall be worn by DISC staff and researchers.
- Research participants will be encouraged to wear masks but will not be required to do so.
- Hand washing, before the start of a study and after it is finished (for MR studies), must take place in the bathroom of the suite (LL130C); there is no sink available in the control room. Hand sanitizer is also available throughout DISC in each of the main rooms (operator, scanner, and reception rooms).
- If a subject develops any symptoms of illness prior to being scanned, the scan should be rescheduled for a later date.
- In the case of subjects who notify study personnel that they have developed confirmed COVID-19 infection in the 7 days following their Center visit, the PI should inform Dr. Krishna Nayak, Center Director, when the subject was scanned (day and time slot). The Center will follow USC policies on contact tracing.

SCANNING

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE CENTER

1. One representative of the investigator's team should welcome subjects at the ground floor of MCB. The representative must wear a mask.
2. **Subjects who choose to wear a mask must use MRI safe masks available in the control room; they shall not use their own masks which may, or may not, contain metal parts.**
3. **Subjects may not be scanned if they exhibit symptoms deemed to be signs of COVID-19 infection** (fever, cough, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, muscle pains) including coughing or sneezing. **Subjects with fever (as defined by temperature above 100°) may not be scanned.**
4. Any ferromagnetic objects worn by the subject or in their pockets will be removed by the subjects themselves and can be stored with any other personal belongings in the lockers available in the changing room.
5. The MR gantry and all cushions will be covered with discardable covers or clean linens.

6. The subject will be informed that all scanner parts in contact with the subject have been cleaned prior to positioning on the MR gantry.
7. Whenever possible due to the design of the experiment, the subject should wear a MR compatible mask (available in the control room).
8. If so desired, the subject will be given disposable gloves (available in the control room).
9. No one may enter the MRI control room if they are not required for the execution of the experiment.

AFTER COMPLETION OF THE STUDY

1. The subject will be escorted by the investigator out of the Center and the building.
2. After the subject has left, the investigator will proceed with the cleaning/disinfecting of **ALL** equipment used during the session. There will be a required and automatically scheduled time slot of 30 minutes added for this procedure to take place at no extra expense to the investigator.

In the scanner room: use 70% alcohol wipes for all items that come into contact or close proximity with research subjects, including:

- a. Head coil
- b. Mirror
- c. Button box
- d. Main magnet bore
- e. Squeeze ball
- f. Earphones
- g. Biopac cables (after discarding all Biopac one-use contacts)
- h. MRI table movement buttons
- i. Subject bed (after discarding all paper covers)
- j. Any drawer handles inside the magnet room that were used
- k. Scanner room door handles and airlock switch

In the control room:

- a. Intercom buttons
- b. Intercom speaker
- c. Computer keyboards
- d. Biopac computer (if used)
- e. All switches and door or drawer handles touched

RECEPTION ROOM

No special requirements.

MRI OPERATOR ROOM

No special requirements.