

1. SCOPE

This SOP is designed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the 3T MRI facility.

a. Introduction

- COVID-19 is an upper respiratory infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus is known to spread primarily through the following:
 - Respiratory droplets produced by coughing, or sneezing.
 - Close, prolonged personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
 - Contact with high-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles, 3T keyboard and mouse)
- There are many different measures aimed at reducing the spread of the virus which include:
 - Wearing appropriate PPE (e.g., mask, face shield, gloves)
 - Disinfecting high-touch surfaces
 - Coughing/sneezing into your elbow or sleeve
 - Frequent hand washing
 - Physical distancing, and remaining home if you are feeling sick or unwell.

b. Research Activities at TIRF

- TIRF continues to work at both the faculty and institutional level to ensure that research operations are carried out safely and efficiently during COVID-19 restrictions. For more details regarding guidelines please refer to the [Western COVID-19 Research Recovery Plan](#).
- TIRF continues to exercise policies and procedures with regard to research activity, in line with Western's operating guidelines to ensure safety with regards to COVID-19. This includes:
 - Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Ensuring appropriate disinfection of all high traffic surfaces prior to and following each research study.

2. PROCEDURES

a. MRI Personnel (Level 1 & 2) - Core Responsibilities

- Adhere to PPE guidelines in accordance with this SOP, as well as, the currently mandated standards as defined by the university, for dealing with human participants and animal models.
- Disinfect all high-touch surfaces, including any surfaces that human participants, research personnel, or other (e.g., animals) have come in contact with, before and after each study procedure

b. Bookings

- All requests will be communicated through mrbookings@robarts.ca, preferably at least two days in advance.

c. Disinfection and Decontamination

- Disinfection procedure applies to all MRI studies including, but not limited to, human, animal, and phantom scans. The disinfection procedure is as follows (and extends to the animal prep room):
 1. Sanitize hands using alcohol-based sanitizer provided in the MRI suite.
 2. Don gloves
 3. Use TIRF approved “Accel INTERVention TM” wipes to disinfect all high-touch surfaces (3T console), MRI equipment (phantoms, SAT monitors, animal cart, etc.), chairs, door handles, and countertops in the MRI suite/magnet room.
 4. Doff gloves.
 5. Sanitize hands again using alcohol-based sanitizer provided in the MRI suite.

d. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All MRI personnel must adhere to PPE guidelines in accordance with this SOP, as well as the currently mandated standards, as defined by the university, for dealing with human participants and animal models.
- Further information regarding the current mandates and FAQs related to research operations at Western can be found at: https://uwo.ca/research/covid19_updates.html and <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety.html>