Introduction to COVID-19 changes for Fall Semester Phase CAMRIS Radiology MRI Research Core

In response to the COVID crisis and PSOM current continues to monitor local community metrics and has moved to a Fall Semester status. This is not a complete change to Phase 3 but, is a transition towards it. The occupancy limits for both wet and dry labs has changed. Our core in response to this effort to recover is making the following adjustments to allow better access and use of our facilities. These changes cover all CAMRIS MRI systems.

Changes to policy/procedure in Fall Semester:

1. Occupancy totals for the facilities have lifted by the University but the scanner control area limit will remain at 3 people. The subject, Investigator or their designate, and the MRI Technologist. Rotation of personnel to and from control area can be used to maintain this number.
2. Testing areas access will be allowed and scheduled. Room use is preceded/followed by thorough contact surface cleaning.
3. Stellar Chance MRI systems cleaning/operation will be permitted to be performed by Level 2 Operators.
4. Buffer times between sessions will be shortened to 30 minutes.
5. Additional personnel may accompany the patient, but proper PPE and distancing rules are still in place.
6. All HUP and University Personnel will use Penn OpenPass daily.
7. Quality Improvement project will be in place and UCV disinfection will be used between sessions as available.

These Policies and procedures remain in place as described for phase 2.

8. COVID screening will be part of all involved in the study:
   a) MRI Technologists are part of the HUP Radiology department. These people are screened by self temp and symptom check daily before leaving for work and are also temperature checked upon arriving at work.
   b) Research Coordinator or Staff – ALL University Personnel will be participating in OpenPass prior to arriving for work.
   c) Subject/subjects are screened with COVID screening procedure as outlined by HUP within 24 hours of their arrival. This screening occurs remotely (see SOP for details) to reduce density in the scanner facility.
   d) Upon arrival they are temp and symptom checked prior to admission and given a droplet mask.
9. Social Distancing of 6’ will be maintained whenever practicable. In subject management and positioning situations where it cannot, the MRI Technologist will wear both mask and Face shield during the session. Workflow checks are in place that demand Investigative coordinator to “call” the scanner immediately prior to proceeding to the facility and confirm everything is ready for the session to begin. 30 minutes of time will be left between scans. This is to allow proper and complete cleaning as well as air changes in the MRI room.

10. PPE will be managed based on HUP Clinical standard. All technologists will adhere to the 6’ rule. In cases where they are positioning, assisting, or working inside that 6’ distance the MRI Technologist will wear a droplet mask and face shield. All subject will wear a droplet mask the entire time they are in CAMRIS—This includes scanner time. The small metal forming bar present in the facemask will be removed and mask worn by subject during their time in the MRI unit. Note: Claustrophobic occurrences due to mask are anticipated but the standard will be No Mask-No Scan.

11. Preparation specific to having an MRI done should in general be taken care of BEFORE subject arrives to allow for an efficient running of the session. This subject preparation in addition to COVID measures listed above. ALL of these should be taken care of PRIOR to arrival in department by the Investigative team:
   a) Resolution of any history that could create unsafe MRI is resolved prior to arriving at HUP
   b) Education of the subject to avoid use of make-up, hair spray/gel, hair pieces, jewelry
   c) Wearing of appropriate clothing such as sweat clothes
   d) All neurocognitive testing and preparation for the exam
   e) Vision correction adjustments or fittings
   f) Realistic evaluation of subject for successful completion of exam

12. Arrival and Workflow – All MR Technologists will be wearing droplet mask and face shield while working with the subjects. It is expected that coordinators will do the same. CAMRIS does not supply PPE items for the Investigators.

All subjects in Pennchart Radiology will be contacted via text and phone for COVID in advance of their time. Upon arrival they will be met by Coordinator, HUP screened and accompanied to Dulles or PCAM registration. Upon completion of registration the subject will be placed in NAVICARE location systems. Coordinator will call MRI Technologist and confirm system is ready for session. Coordinator will take subject to MRI scanner.

All subjects arriving for Stellar Chance Facility are not scheduled in PennChart. MRI and COVID screening questions are presented in RedCap form to be completed before arrival. During the session, the coordinator will leave the subject to be scanned by the operator. If some portion of the session mandates the coordinator be present a 6’ distance will be maintained and/or a mask and face shield implemented.
13. Post session cleaning and buffer time – each scanner is equipped with disinfectant pads that will be used by the technologist to clean all contact surfaces at the end of each imaging session. The MRI Bore in its entirety will be wiped down as will all peripheral equipment used for the study. A delay before starting the following subject will be built into the schedule to allow for proper cleaning and a number of air changes in the room. Surface outside of the MRI room involved in scanning will also be wiped down prior to the next session.

Please refer to our Standard Operating Procedures for more details. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Long, Associate Director of CAMRIS.