



TECH 2000 3T MRI RESEARCH FACILITY

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3T MR Research Program

Center for MR
Research

University of Illinois
at Chicago

3T MRI Facility Updates

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Return to Research

The 3T MR Research Program would like to welcome back all the user groups cleared to resume their research at the Harrison MR research facility. The challenges presented due to the COVID-19 pandemic will require everyone's cooperation and understanding of new operational procedures to keep all CMRR staff, user groups and their subjects as safe as possible during their visit. In this newsletter, we would like to focus on the new guidelines for returning to the MR Research Facility.

Prior to Arrival

To minimize the interaction between staff and subjects, we have created electronic versions of both the MR safety screening and the COVID-19 screening forms. Both forms can be found on our website at the following link:

<http://chicago.medicine.uic.edu/departments/centers/center-magnetic-resonance-research/3t-program/documentation-and-tools/>

We would ask that the COVID-19 screening forms for both RA and their subjects be completed and emailed to both technologists within 24 hours prior to the subject's scheduled appointment to have the most up to date information. The MR safety screening form may also be sent in the same email; however, do not hesitate to send the MR safety screening form earlier if you have any safety concerns that need to be addressed prior to the scheduled study.

Research staff or their subjects may not report to the Harrison facility if they have any of the below symptoms or COVID-19 related conditions regardless of severity:

- Fever greater than 100.4°F
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Muscle pain
- Weakness or fatigue
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Had a positive COVID-19 result < 30 days ago
- Exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Arrival at the Harrison Facility

The Harrison facility continues to have a **NO visitor policy** in place until further notice. To remain in compliance with this policy, the MR Research Center can only allow **one (1) RA and one (1) subject** during any scheduled exam. We will inform the user groups if there are any changes to this policy.

There are a few exceptions to this request in cases with the following criteria:

- Subject is under 18 years of age.
- Coupled research studies
- "Non-RA" translator services
- Elderly subject assistance

For underage and coupled research studies, we will allow **one (1) RA, one (1) subject, and one (1) parent or family member** to enter the MR facility. The parent or family member for both exceptions may be asked to wait in the Prep room if adequate seating for proper social distancing does not exist in the waiting area(s). In cases where translation is necessary or the subject is elderly requiring assistance, the "non-RA" translator or family member / caregiver may

assist until the subject has been placed within the scanner. Once the scan is ready to begin, this person will be asked to provide contact information and vacate the building until the scan is complete. At the conclusion of the scan, the technologist will contact them to allow for re-entry to provide the necessary assistance.

All research staff and their subject will be required to wear a mask when entering the Harrison facility main lobby and will need to be temperature screened. Any research staff or subject with a temperature reading **under 100.4°F** will be permitted to enter the MR Center. Everyone entering the MR Center must continue to wear a mask and practice the recommended **social distancing of at least 6 feet**.

If the research staff or their subject have a temperature reading of **100.4°F or higher**, they will not be permitted to enter the MR Center and will need to vacate the premises. Research staff will be required to provide their UIN prior to leaving the Harrison facility per the UIC ESHO temperature screening policy.

While at the MR Center

Once cleared to enter the MR Center, all research staff and their subject must continue to wear a mask that covers both the mouth and nose. We would ask that you please wash your hands per CDC guidelines or sanitize your hands with hand sanitizer upon entry and continue to practice proper social distancing while navigating throughout the MR Center.

All research groups may continue to use the Prep room with their scheduled subjects for training and interview purposes only. Please remember to notate the time needed for Prep room use within the "Notes" section of the CMRR online scheduling system when scheduling your appointment. Eating in the Prep room or MR control room is prohibited at this time and the MR Center kitchenette is reserved for the MR center staff only. If research staff or their subject need to use the restroom, we would ask that you please use the restrooms located outside of the gowning area. The restroom located next to the Prep room is reserved for MR Center staff only. Please arrive for your research scan appointment on time to

minimize the number of people at the scan area at the same time. If you are ready earlier than expected and would like to start before your scheduled time, please ask the research technologist prior to bringing the subject to the MR control room.

If the research staff or their subject become ill while at the MR Center, please inform the technologist and vacate the premises immediately. Please follow your department protocol or Federal, State, and local guidelines for seeking medical attention.

Disinfection Procedures and Cleaning/PPE supplies

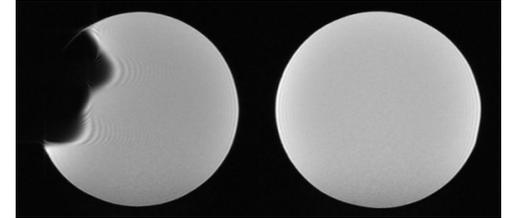
Each research group will be responsible for cleaning the areas in which they use while at the MR Center. Please make sure to clean all of the frequently high contact objects and surfaces within the Prep room and research cart such as mouse, keyboard, desktop surfaces, door handles, Prep room key, etc. at the conclusion of your training and study. Please make sure to wear gloves when cleaning all equipment, apply the disinfectant to sufficiently wet all surfaces, and allow to air dry. Any ancillary equipment within the MR scan room will be cleaned by the technologist.

Each research group will need to provide their own adequate supply of masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, and disinfecting cleaning supplies. The research staff and their subjects may use the wall hand sanitizer stations located throughout the building; however, be mindful that supply limitations may be limited on any given time.

In the early stages of returning to research activities at the MR Center, the front desk was able to provide a mask if the research staff or their subject did not have one. Due to unforeseen shortages in the clinical service PPE supply chain, each group will be responsible for providing their staff and subject with a mask.

The subject's mask must be free of any metallic nose piece regardless of the exam being done for both safety and image quality purposes. Many of these nose pieces are

made of conductive metals such as copper and may also contain ferrous metals.



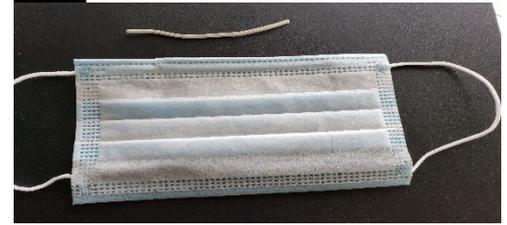
The image on the left was taken on a phantom with a ferrous metallic nose piece still in place. The image on the right was taken after the metallic nose piece was removed.

If metal free masks are in short supply or difficult to locate, the metallic component can be easily removed by cutting a small area in the mask and removing the metallic component as outlined in the steps below:

Step 1



Step 2



General updates

When scheduling your subject's appointment, we would ask that you allow for a **30-minute** gap in between scheduled appointments to allow sufficient time for MR scan room cleaning between subjects. If an appointment is scheduled without this time gap, we would kindly ask that you reschedule your appointment.

The current MR Center cancellation policy will continue to remain in place. We do recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances from time to time. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are cancelling your appointment.

Training of new research assistants will need to be scheduled directly with the MR Center technologist. We would like to keep these training groups as small as possible. Please remember to maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet within the scan control room during the training session.