

Vaccination guidance (September 29, 2021)

Researchers

1. All researchers who are U of T members (faculty, post-doctoral fellows, staff or students) must be vaccinated or (with approved exemption) undergo routine rapid antigen screening (RAS) (or PCR test) with a negative result, as required by University policy. Researchers who conduct [Level 3 studies](#) or engage with vulnerable participants or populations (including children under 12) must be vaccinated if they are to interact directly with human participants, unless they meet #3.
2. U of T researchers who conduct research at a different organization (e.g. hospital, health care centre, school/college/university, government or non-government organization, private company) must adhere to the policies of that organization.
3. Local research partners in jurisdictions where vaccine is not available should follow the directives of their local public health officials. They must be vaccinated once vaccine is available to them.
4. U of T researchers must complete [UCheck](#) whenever coming onto campus.
5. U of T researchers must be fully vaccinated **and** undergo RAS with a negative result if conducting research in participants' homes. RAS testing shall be offered to participants and caregivers.

Human Participants

1. Research participants coming onto U of T property must complete [UCheck](#) or paper-based screening form, as available.
2. Participants coming onto U of T property must be vaccinated and/or undergo **rapid antigen screening (RAS)** with a negative result within the previous 72 hours. **Costs for screening must be covered by the PI*, not the participant, and must use the same kit model as what is being used by the University.**
3. Research in the community, whether in Ontario or outside of the province or country, must adhere to all local public health requirements.

Research with Unvaccinated Participants

1. U of T researchers who are conducting research with a population with high numbers of participants who are not fully vaccinated should consider where and when the research will take place. If the research cannot be conducted by remote or virtual methods, they are encouraged to choose lower-risk sites when possible.
2. If the research must take place on U of T property, the participants, in addition to RAS (as above), should minimize contact with individuals engaged in non-research activities. **This may include using specific buildings, locations within buildings and times in which research will take place.**

***The University is encouraged to negotiate the price of RAS test kits for research purposes with the vendor (e.g. pharmacy) for a reduced cost. Financial support for the kits should be made available for graduate student research projects where necessary and should be considered as part of research recovery plans.**