**Consent Form: COVID-19 Risks and Procedures for In-Person Research at Ryerson University**

[Please note that this form is to be used as an addendum for all research studies. This is a COVID-19 supplementary consent form and researchers are still required to provide a separate consent form to record consent for individual research studies.]

Principal Investigator: [name, department, phone, email]

[OR]

Student Principal Investigator: [name, department, phone, email]

Faculty Supervisor: [name, department, phone, email]

Study Title: [study title] (the “Study”)

Protocol Number: REB [####-###]

Dear research participant:

The information pertaining to research study REB [####-###] was shared with you, and you have signed a consent agreement relating to your participation in this study. This consent form supplements that consent agreement and brings to your attention important information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the additional risks involved, and the modifications to the study protocols that the researcher team will follow.

In light of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, Canadian public health authorities have strongly recommended that everyone (especially high-risk individuals or those in contact with high-risk individuals) take additional precautions, including those outlined in this consent form. COVID-19 can result in severe illness, medical expenses, loss of income and possibly death. Ryerson University is attempting to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by using reasonable efforts to follow the health and safety guidelines recommended by the provincial and federal health authorities. Nevertheless, there remains a risk that by attending the Ryerson University campus or any of the Ryerson University study sites, you may contract the COVID-19 virus.

Please read the following statements carefully and feel free to ask questions if anything seems unclear. Your participation in this study is voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any time by notifying the researcher.

All study participants participating in in-person research studies must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have received an approved exemption from Ryerson University in accordance with [Ryerson University’s current COVID-19 vaccination protocols](https://www.ryerson.ca/covid-19/health-safety-on-campus/vaccinations/).

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, participation in this study is only open to individuals who do not have a weakened immune system, and who do not have one or more of the COVID-19 [high risk medical conditions](about:blank). Furthermore, if you are uncertain about your risk level, you are required to seek medical advice before participating to determine if you are in a high-risk category. If you are in a high-risk category, you may not be able to participate in the study. [To the researcher: if you have concerns regarding this exclusion of participants, please contact the REB for further discussion].

The location for this study, Ryerson University – [name campus, e.g. Main Campus/Lab location] (the “study site”), is under the jurisdiction of Public Health Ontario. In order to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, Ryerson University is following Public Health Ontario directions in addition to taking the following safety precautions:

* The day before your study visit, a member of the study team will ask you to complete the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](about:blank) and confirm that the result indicates that “you do not seem to have symptoms or be part of an at-risk group”, using your preferred contact method (phone, text, email).
* On the day of your visit, no more than an hour before you come to campus, you must again complete the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](about:blank) and confirm that the result indicates that “you do not seem to have symptoms or be part of an at-risk group.” If this is not the case, you should contact the research team to reschedule your appointment.
* All research team members will follow [Ryerson’s Principles and Guidance for the Limited Resumption of Critical Human Participant and/or Field SRC Activity](about:blank)
* All researchers and participants will be required to wear a face-covering or mask. A mask will be provided to you if needed.
* The research team will ensure that high-touch surfaces and/or shared equipment will be sanitized between participants’ appointments.
* All researchers and participants must maintain a physical distance between them of 2 metres or more, unless some study procedures require closer distance or contact (for example, taking biological samples or fitting an eye-tracking headset). If 2 metres of distance is not possible, the study procedures will include additional safety measures that were approved by the University:
  + *[Provide details (e.g., plexiglass barriers between participants, only one researcher in the room during any active exercise procedures, use of face shields).]*

In addition to the above, Ryerson University will be collecting personal contact information that we shall retain and use only to follow up with you in cases where you may have been exposed to COVID-19 at the study site. Your contact information may be shared with public health authorities for the purpose of contact tracing. Contact information will be stored securely and separately from research data then destroyed as soon as permitted by public health authorities (usually after 14 days).

As a study participant, it is expected that you also comply with Public Health Ontario (or the equivalent provincial body) directives. In addition, we request that you follow the procedures noted below. Please do everything you can to follow these health-related procedures and directives to protect yourself and others:

* Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
* Avoid physical contact with other individuals to whatever extent possible.
* Advise a researcher if you believe a safety measure is not being taken, or if you feel that safety is at risk.
* Attend the study site alone, or if needed, bring only one support person (e.g., a parent).
* If taking public transit for this visit, please follow all guidelines from the transit service and public health, such as wearing a face mask and hand sanitizing.
* Consider using the washroom before leaving home. Notify the researcher of any washroom needs. Washroom capacity is limited to allow physical distancing.
* **If you are feeling unwell or experiencing any potential COVID-19 symptoms, then please stay home and notify a member of the study team that you cannot attend**. Contact information can be found on the consent form that has been shared with you. Examples of potential COVID-19 symptoms are noted at the end of this document.

Please note that this study has been reviewed and approved by the Ryerson University Research Ethics Board (REB [####-###]).If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Ryerson Research Ethics Board at 416-979-5042 or [rebchair@ryerson.ca](about:blank).

The Government of Canada provides [information on COVID-19 risks and prevention](about:blank) and on taking care of your [mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](about:blank).

A copy of this consent form will be provided upon arrival to the study site. You will be asked to sign it in the presence of a member of the research team.

Please sign and date this form if you acknowledge and accept the information outlined above about the risks of COVID-19 exposure and the related safety measures that have been put in place. This signature confirms that you have completed the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](about:blank) no more than an hour before coming to campus and are willing to participate in the study at the study site. By signing this document, you confirm that you have read the information above and have had an opportunity to ask questions.

I acknowledge:

* I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have received an approved exemption from Ryerson University and am participating in the [Rapid Antigen Testing Program](https://www.ryerson.ca/covid-19/health-safety-on-campus/vaccinations/rapid-antigen-testing-program/).
* I am not experiencing any potential Covid-19 symptoms, including without limitation new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, temperature equal to or over 38C (100.4F), feeling feverish, chills, fatigue or weakness, muscle or body aches, new loss of smell or taste, headache, gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting), or feeling very unwell.
* I am not in a COVID-19 “high risk” category that is excluded from taking part in the study (as described in the exclusion criteria in this consent form).
* In the last 14 days, I have not travelled outside Canada or had close contact with anyone who has any of the symptoms listed above or a confirmed or presumed case of COVID-19.

Name of participant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of participant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Researcher name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Researcher signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_