

BMEII Human Imaging – COVID-19 Phased Planning

Phase 1: 2 – 4 wks (Starting May 18*)

- BMEII is open for imaging on ALL modalities
- “For Benefit” studies approved by the IRB only
- Modifications in BMEII/Hess have been made to adhere to social distancing and maintain staff and subject safety
- 30 minutes added to each imaging session to accommodate cleaning
- Waiting rooms and/or hours of operation to facilitate a more “low-risk” environment for all subjects
- Only two research scanners (plus CT) can be booked concurrently.

Phase 2 (June 8th – June 30th)

- BMEII expanding availability to all not-for-benefit studies (pending IRB notification)
- Continued safety and social distancing practice in Phase 1
- Extended hours may be available if warranted.

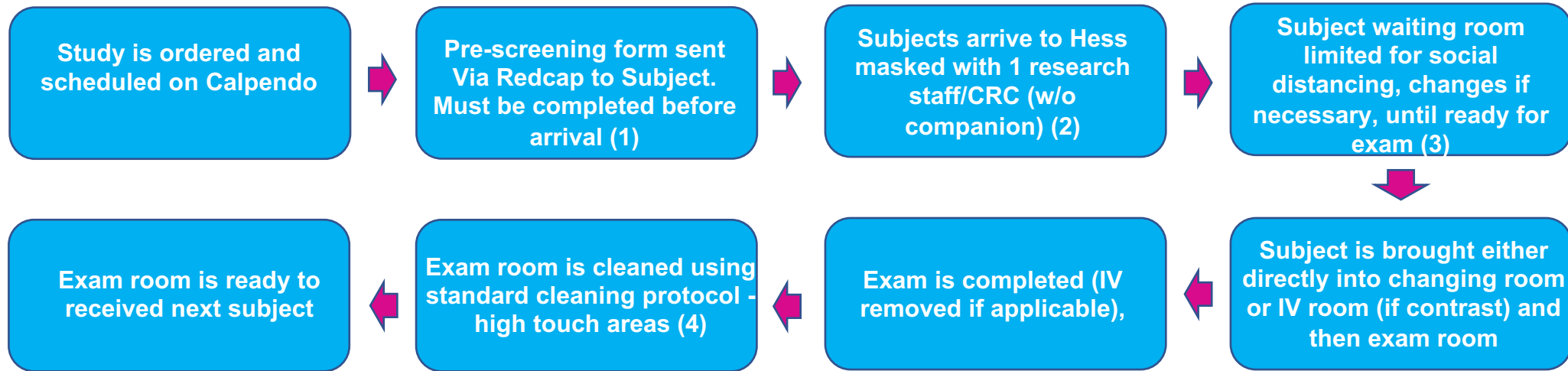
Phase 3 (Starting July1)

- All scanners available for all studies[^]
- Increase hours as needed to accommodate increased volume
- Continue social distancing as per local and regional guidelines

* Dates are estimated and subject to change

[^] Studies involving subjects vulnerable to COVID requires IRB approval

BMEI Guidelines for Imaging Subjects during COVID-19



Guidelines:

1. Screening forms will be sent out via email or link to subjects to complete at the time of scheduling (individuals who cannot complete will be assisted by a caregiver or research team member)
 - a. Researcher booking the slot will be required to follow-up with the subject 24 prior to imaging and review Infectious Disease Questionnaire
2. Hess entrance will screen subjects for fever and provide mask if necessary. Companions will not be allowed to accompany subjects unless necessary. Only 1 member of the research staff can accompany the subject.
 - a. If subjects arrives with no mask, lobby screening will provide = subject remains mask for entire encounter
 - b. Pediatric subject may be allowed 1 parent or guardian
3. Waiting rooms will practice social distancing by separating chairs when possible and having subject maintain 6 feet distance while waiting
4. Clean exam room – using our routine cleaning protocol with disinfecting wipes, clean all high touch areas (exam table, scanner)

BMEII Guidelines

Non-COVID v. COVID+ subjects

- Pre-screening will be done 24 hours prior to arrival (CRC) and again when subject arrives. **Subjects who are screened positive for COVID related symptoms will be told to reschedule**
- COVID+ subjects must 14 days post Dx & symptoms before rescheduled
- All subjects will be checked for fever before entering Hess facilities
- All subjects will be required to wear masks (provided if they do not arrive with mask)
- If COVID status is known (positive) and subjects do not have fevers, attempt be made to cohort subjects to specific times during the day
- If COVID status is unknown or negative, precautions include both personnel and subjects wearing mask during the entire encounter (SEE PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Infection prevention requires personnel and subjects to wear masks throughout the encounter
- N95 masks – required for aerosolizing procedures (not performed in BMEII). Optional for staff.
- Hand washing and use of hand sanitizer recommended
- Gloves – should be donned and doffed between encounters. Worn during encounters and room cleaning. Dispose after each use. Should not be worn regularly as it increases likelihood of spreading virus.
- Gowns – optional, not necessary for encounters
- Eye protection – Required for anyone interacting with subjects

Cleaning Protocols

- After completion of every examination, “high-touch” areas in rooms will be clean using disinfecting (hydrogen peroxide) wipes
- 30 minutes will be blocked in between each scan for cleaning prior to bringing next subject into room
- No need for special droplet cleaning or terminal clean unless an aerosolizing procedure is performed (not performed BMEII)
- Regularly wipe down high-touch areas within the practice (keyboards, imaging consoles, phones including cell phones, etc)

Positive Symptoms

Symptoms, defined by Infection Prevention, indicating likelihood for being contagious

- *Positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days*
- *Fever (over 100° F)*
- *Shortness of Breath*
- *New persistent cough*
- *Sore throat*
- *Body/muscle aches*
- *New Loss of taste or Smell*
- *Loss of appetite, vomiting or diarrhea*
- *Rash*

If the subject has any of the above symptoms, their imaging visit must be rescheduled 10 days following symptom onset and 72 hours being fever free (without fever reducer).

FAQs (Page 1 of 2)

What is being done to ensure the safety of the staff?

- *Protocols have been and will be implemented to adhere to social distancing*
- *Companions will not be allowed with subjects unless medically necessary*
- *Only one member of the research team can accompany the subject*
- *Subjects will sit apart in waiting rooms (accomplished by removal of chairs and/or signs that occupy seats)*
- *Subjects and staff required to wear masks at all times*
- *All paperwork to be done prior to arrival to limit direct subject interaction with front desk staff*
- *Daily staff symptom check prior to start of shift (currently self-reported)*
- *Routine Antibody testing will be available for those who request prioritising front line workers and COVID testing is available if symptomatic*

What types of exams are we performing?)

- *We are currently performing all types of modalities and procedures (3T, 7T, CT, PET/MRI) in a limited fashion (clinical trials and urgent studies currently* with expansion over time)*

What are our hours of operation? Will that change?

- *In Phase 1 - 8am – 5pm. Only 2 scanners (plus CT) can be booked concurrently*
- *This will be expanded over time as will the hours with the goal initially to spread out exams and adhere to social distancing. Eventually the extended hours will help with our backlog of cases*

** Subject to change based on guidance from IRB*

FAQs (Page 2 of 2)

How are we handling subjects that are COVID positive?

- CRC must pre-screening all subjects 24 hours prior to arrival. Additionally subjects should be told to self-assess on the morning of the study. **If subjects have symptoms they must be told to reschedule for 10 days after the symptoms started and 72 hours after fever (without fever reducer).**
- When available, EPIC COVID status should be entered in the booking comments.
- **Subjects known to be COVID+ without symptoms may be imaged at our facilities. These subject must be 14 days from COVID+ test AND symptom free. However, when the status is known, BMEII may take additional precautions to reduce exposure risks (separate waiting areas, limited time in waiting room, rapid transition into exam room). We are considering separate imaging hours for COVID+ subjects, if possible**
- Please note, that many subjects we will see have not be tested for COVID. Therefore, staff should take the appropriate precautions when interacting with ALL subjects. Wear mask always, hand hygiene, clean surfaces and exam room.

Will plexiglass or other barriers be installed at our practices?

- A physical barrier and signs on the floor will be installed to provide a safe perimeter around the check-in areas. Based on Infection Prevention guidance, BMEII will NOT be installing barriers going forward. The concern for maintenance of these barriers has resulted in this recommendation. In additional, IP considers masking of all staff and subjects to be the most important measure to reduce the risk of transmission.