

COVID-19 Rules and Considerations

The following guidelines were established by the Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair and will apply to all DMRSEF projects in the 2020-2021 season. Please review them carefully before beginning experimentation and reach out with any questions you may have at denversciencefair@ucdenver.edu

General Risk Assessment:

Due to the special circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, ALL students will be required to include in their risk assessment how they will mitigate the spread of the disease while conducting their experiment. Examples of such mitigations include (but are not limited to):

- Wearing a face covering while conducting experiments outside of the home environment.
- Maintaining a 6-foot distance from people not in the researcher's immediate social bubble. This is especially important when conducting human participant projects.
- Washing hands frequently.
- Keeping workspace clean and disinfected, especially if the student is working in a shared space.
- When working with human participants, consider virtual or online options and avoid in-person projects.

Student researchers and supervising adults should be aware of guidance or regulations from the state, county, and local officials as well as their school districts or research facilities. The safety of the entire community should be a priority.

Note: Just because many schools are teaching students remotely this year, does not mean that the rules regarding what can and cannot be done in a home environment have changed. Student researchers must still follow all of the guidelines regarding where PHBA, Vertebrate Animal and Human Participant projects must take place. If there is any doubt, contact the regional or CSEF SRC before starting experimentation. SSP has put together some resources for doing research at home. More information and guidance can be found on the Colorado Department of Education's Health & Safety website.

Human Subject Risk Assessment:

Due to the special circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2019, students conducting projects that use human participants should include if exposure to COVID-19 is a potential risk if participating in the study and how the student researcher is going to mitigate that risk. Examples of such mitigations include (but are not limited to):

- Consider virtual or online options and avoid in-person projects.
- Requiring all participants to wear a face covering while participating in the study.
- Maintaining a 6-foot distance between subjects.
- Requiring participants to wash their hands before and after participating in the study.
- Disinfecting materials being used by participants.

Student researchers and supervising adults should be aware of guidance or regulations from the state, county, and local officials as well as their school districts or research facilities. The safety of the entire community should be a priority.

Additional Regulations:

No projects will be permitted this season involving the culturing of unknown microorganisms. This includes but is not limited to projects involving swabbing surfaces around the home, the skin, or environment. For all projects involving PHBA, please reference the 2021 ISEF Rule book section beginning on page 17.