

### **Considerations When Eligibility Criteria May Require COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing**

If your protocol eligibility criteria require COVID-19 vaccination/testing, please note that the IRB requires that there be a scientific justification for this requirement in your research study.

Researchers proposing to list COVID-19 vaccination or testing as Inclusion/Exclusion criteria must provide a clear justification in their protocol for doing so. Requesting vaccination status or asking to take the test due to desired safety of the study team is not a valid justification. The COVID-19 vaccination/testing requirement must be necessary to the design and conduct of the study. An example of an acceptable justification would be that the study was COVID-19-related and/or that requiring COVID-19 vaccination/testing is a data point necessary for the science (i.e. to answer the research question).

Please continue to follow the [Northwestern University guidelines](#), your hospital/clinic's or the IRB Office's [COVID-19 symptom pre-screener](#), and other relevant departmental notices in mitigating risks to the study team and researchers.