New FAQ for OR/IRB web pages:

How does the May 26 WSU mask mandate [announcement] impact in-person human subjects research?

- In research settings, treat research participants the same as WSU visitors (not volunteers, who are technically unpaid employees):
  - Researchers should inform participants of WSU masking policy and that they have the choice to either: 1. Show evidence of vaccination (no information need be collected, just a verification) and not wear a mask or; 2. Not show evidence of vaccination and wear a mask.
  - **Disclosure of health information must be voluntary.**
  - Acceptable proof would be any of the forms in the [general guidance](#) (e.g. including: CDC vaccination card or photo of vaccination card)
  - If a participant does not want to be vaccinated or share that information, they need not show any proof, but they will need to wear a mask.
  - It is recommended that researchers NOT keep health records when they are not directly related to research.
  - If the researcher did keep a list of participants not required to mask (e.g., for return visits) this would not be HIPAA* protected information but should be stored securely in compliance with [WSU data security policies](#).
  - Consider building this into the informed consent process (not the consent form, this can be kept verbal because it is not directly related to the research, but consider utilizing a script for consistency)

- In situations where unvaccinated participants cannot mask (due to the research procedures), the PI will need to address how they will limit risk to participants (e.g. research staff might mask when the participants status is unvaccinated or unknown). Consult with [ORA/HRPP](#) for assistance, an IRB protocol amendment may or may not be required.

- In situations where neither researchers nor participants can mask AND vaccination status of anyone is unknown/not vaccinated, the IRB will need to re-assess risk/benefit, this will likely require a protocol amendment, consult with the HRPP to confirm.

*Self-reported health information is not [HIPAA](#) protected (but still sensitive if collected).