



CARIBBEAN PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER  
CAYO SANTIAGO BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO MEDICAL SCIENCES CAMPUS



## **CPRC Medical Clearance & Training Protocol**

Prior to any personnel gaining medical clearance, we ask that the PI whose protocol the investigator will be working on please email Alyssa Arre (alyssa.arre@upr.edu) and cc our Occupational Health Liason, Nahiri Rivera Barreto, (nahiri.rivera@upr.edu) with the name and email of the personnel, and the dates that the person plans to be at Cayo Santiago. We ask that this email be sent 1-2 months prior to the person's intended start date.

### **Summary**

In total there are two components required to gain access to Cayo Santiago:

- 1.) Medical Clearance (including the Health Screening Questionnaire, Medical History Form, and the below described tests and vaccinations)
- 2.) Research Training (including CITI IACUC & Non-human primate training, details below)

The medical clearance components can sometimes take up to two months once all the paper is submitted so it is imperative that you get started on this as soon as possible. Do not submit paperwork until everything is complete; paperwork cannot be submitted to our Occupational Health Office to be processed until everything is together so please send it all at once.

When you believe that you are completed with the medical clearance (the Medical Health Screening Questionnaire and the Medical History form, plus all of the additional test results), please submit that to Nahiri Rivera Barreto (nahiri.rivera@upr.edu) and cc Alyssa Arre (alyssa.arre@upr.edu). When you email Nahiri, please mention which professor that you are working with.

When you believe that you have completed the 3rd component, the training, you can submit your two training certificates to Nahiri Rivera Barreto and cc the professor that you are working with and Alyssa Arre.

### **Details on Preparing the Medical Clearance**

In order to gain medical clearance, all investigators must submit the following:

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- i. There are two forms; the medical health screening form and the medical history form. These must be filled out (instructions below).
- ii. Evidence of negative results of Tuberculin skin test (PPD) or a QuantiFERON gold test, which must be from within 6 months of the date of submission.
- iii. Evidence of positive results of a measles/rubeola IgG test (IgG) from within 6 months of the date of submission. (*If test comes back negative for antibodies, another MMR vaccine is required.*)
- iv. A vaccine record containing evidence of:
  - a. Certification of two MMR vaccines (can be from childhood)
  - b. Diphtheria/Tetanus vaccination from within the last 10 years.
- v. Evidence of COVID-19 vaccination and COVID-19 booster

## 1. Medical Health Screening Questionnaire Form

There are two parts to the Medical Health Screening Questionnaire Form, Part A and Part B. Your PI must also sign page 3 of the medical health screening questionnaire form.

### a. Part A

For Part A of the Medical Health Screening Questionnaire form, your answers may vary depending on the professor that you are working with and the type of data that you are collecting. Please check in with the PI on your project so that they help you properly answer the questions in Part A.

For example, if you are collecting non-invasive data like behavioral or cognitive data, you would respond with the following (below), though please note these answers will be different if you will be handling biological samples and you should check with your PI to get the correct responses.

ex. *Response for behavioral data collection:*

Your PI is: The faculty member that you are working with

Q1: Check contact w/ animals in teaching or research approved by IACUC

Q2: Check non-human primates and macaques, no to all others

Contact is: short distance, 40/hr week

Q3: Check no to all

Q4: Check yes to head cover, safety glasses, and work footwear

Q5: Medical History Form is attached

### b. Part B is on your own.

## 2. Medical History Form

The medical history form you complete with a doctor.

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## **Details on Research Training (IACUC / CITI non-human primate coursework)**

There are two parts to the non-human primate training:

- i. Working with the IACUC – Investigators, Staff and Students
- ii. Working with Non-Human Primates in Research Settings

Some institutions offer or require these trainings as part of their own IACUC or other governing board protocol process. Equivalent courses at an investigator's home institution can be accepted in place of the two courses provided by CITI and listed above. If the investigator's home institution does not offer an equivalent, investigators can take the CITI courses provided here:

<https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/>

The investigator will first need to register.

1. On the first page they should select their organization affiliation as "University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus".
2. This will prompt them to fill out several pages of information with name, email, proposed username/password etc.
3. In response to the question about credits (something like "Are you interested in the option of receiving Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credit for completed CITI Program courses?"), the student can select no as credits aren't required for UPR.
4. On the last couple pages they need to select which type of research they do. They should select that they will be working with animal research or laboratory animal welfare and the option "I work with non-human primates".
5. Once the form is submitted, this will put the user back on a page that resembles a profile page.
6. If they scroll down to "Institutional Courses" they will see "University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus" and a button next to it that says "View Courses".
7. By clicking "View Courses" they will have access to the course material for both trainings required by UPR IACUC for work on Cayo Santiago:
  - a. "Working with the IACUC - Investigators, Staff and Students"
  - b. "Working with Non-Human Primates in Research Settings"