



SPAR - SPECIAL PROGRAM OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

A Program of the Bedford Research Foundation Clinical Laboratory

Massachusetts 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization

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SPAR PROGRAM COVID19

FAQs

Can I still collect my semen specimen with SPAR for use in a fertility procedure?

Yes, the SPAR lab is still able to hold consultations and collect specimens, however we recommend that you follow local guidelines for travel and social distancing from the CDC ([CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

Should I get tested for COVID19 before collecting my specimens?

You should follow your doctor's recommendation for testing of COVID19, particularly if you are experiencing symptoms. The SPAR lab will also perform a COVID19 test when you are collecting your specimens. The effect of COVID19 on fertility is unknown, so this information may become clinically valuable as you move through your process.

Who should I turn to for more guidance and information?

The WHO and CDC both have information available on their respective websites (www.who.org and www.cdc.gov), and the ASRM (American Society of Reproductive Medicine) is updating information on their website frequently with new information (<https://www.reproductivefacts.org>).

Can I do a virtual consultation with Dr. Kiessling if I can't travel?

If you are using a gestational carrier or surrogate, then you will need to come to the SPAR lab in Bedford regardless of whether you have a consultation with Dr. Kiessling using a virtual platform or not. Since travel is necessary, an in-person consultation is greatly preferred. If you would like to have the consultation

before arranging for travel, or are not using a gestational carrier, the SPAR program is working to accommodate these requests in response to this unprecedented epidemic. Please contact the SPAR coordinator at spar@bedfordresearch.org, after you have received your information packet from the website at <https://www.bedfordspar.org/the-program/request-a-spar-consultation/>.

I have already completed the SPAR program, and my specimens are in storage at your facility, are they at risk?

No. All specimens stored at the SPAR lab are safely contained in our Liquid Nitrogen storage tanks, and are monitored continually. The Bedford Research Foundation clinical laboratory continues to operate, and maintain all facilities during the COVID19 pandemic. Should you have any further questions or need more information, please email spar@bedfordresearch.org, lab staff is monitoring that address throughout the day.

When can my specimens be shipped to my fertility clinic?

Most clinics in the United States have postponed fertility procedures, and so you will want to check with your clinic and your Doctor to find the most up to date information. Should your procedure be still moving forward, or the clinic is ready for your specimens, then the SPAR program can ship normally once we have received notice.

Should you have further questions or need further assistance, please email spar@bedfordresearch.org - we are here to help during this unprecedented event.