

# UNDERSTANDING AIRLOCK RULES FOR DATA EXPORT

## 1. OVERVIEW

**PURPOSE:** safe and secure data handling within the Research Environment

**PRINCIPLE:** summary-level data in line with guidelines

## 2. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Must align with the registered project's goals
- no implications for dataset security
- no potential for participant identification

## 3. CAN BE EXPORTED

- phenotype counts whereby <5 counts are masked
- GWAS results following GEL standard filters
- short list of anonymised variants
- statistical tables
- graphs and figures with summarised data
- scripts

## 4. CANNOT BE EXPORTED

- participant IDs or sample IDs
- unmasked phenotypic counts <5
- raw unprocessed data
- individual level data for external analysis (rare exceptions)

## 5. REQUIRES DISCUSSION

- any use of GEL public sample IDs
- individual level genotype-phenotype correlations
- external analysis due to lack of internal feasibility
- complex requests requiring subject-matter-expert discussion

## 6. EXTRA GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCHERS

- only export essential data needed for research to ensure efficiency and security
- adherence to all airlock regulations
- ensure project is registered and been approved for at least one month

## THE EXPORT PROCESS

- Airlock request is submitted by researchers
- Airlock team reviews the request against policy guidelines
- Approval/Rejection message communicated with researcher with reasonings
- Upon approval, safe data transfer can be processed

The aim of Airlock function is to enable research whilst protecting participant anonymity.

