Research services will look different from the services provided prior to COVID-19. Research visits are by appointment only and containers of records will be pulled in advance, so please be sure to communicate about materials of interest prior to your visit so that we can have your first cart of materials ready for your arrival. In addition, we have implemented a number of measures to ensure the safety of our researchers and staff.

Community Levels: We are in Fulton County, Georgia. Prior to your visit, please consult https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html to see the latest.

Testing Proof and Vaccination Status: The Library will no longer require visitors to present vaccine attestations to gain access during LOW community levels. Vaccine attestations will still be required of visitors (other than museum visitors) in HIGH and MEDIUM community levels.

If visitors (other than museum visitors) decline to respond to the Certification of Vaccination or are not fully vaccinated, they must also comply with the following testing safety protocols while in a Federal facility: Provide proof of having received a negative COVID-19 test from within the previous 3 days (when in MEDIUM/HIGH). For researcher-provided COVID-19 test results, the date that the specimen was collected must be no more than three whole calendar days before the date the researcher seeks entry to a NARA facility. Three whole calendar days may exceed 72 hours; for example, a test of a specimen collected on Monday morning is valid through Thursday evening. Test results must clearly indicate the pharmacy, health care provider, laboratory, clinic, or similar facility that performed the test. Test results that do not indicate the entity that performed the are not acceptable. Self-tests are not acceptable.

Face Coverings and PPE: Researchers should supply their own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as we cannot guarantee we will have PPE to provide them. Researchers are permitted to wear their own latex or vinyl gloves. Gloves can still be provided to researchers for handling photographs, negatives, and film, as currently required by NARA research room procedures.

- In NARA facilities in counties with a HIGH community level: Face coverings are required for all facility occupants (including members of the public.)
- In NARA facilities in counties with a MEDIUM community level: Face coverings are permitted but are not required for facility occupants, regardless of vaccination status.
- In NARA facilities in counties with a LOW community level: Face coverings are permitted but not required.

Physical Distancing: Six-foot physical distancing is required at all community transmission levels.

On-Site Services:

- Water fountains will not be available for drinking directly. Water fountains will be available to refill bottles, but not for drinking directly. Researchers are permitted to keep a sealed water bottle in their locker.
- On-site dining services might not be available and are subject to change, so please plan accordingly. Researchers are permitted to keep sealable food items and snacks in their locker and these can be consumed in the research lobby or at outdoor seating. No food or drinks are permitted into the Research Room itself.
Cleaning and Sanitizing: NARA follows CDC cleaning guidance. In addition, researchers can contribute to sanitizing procedures by cleaning their assigned tables and equipment before and after their research. Cleaning wipes will be made available. Researchers should wash their hands thoroughly before entering and after exiting research rooms and regularly throughout their visit to the facility. Hand sanitizer will be readily available outside of the research rooms. Additionally, researchers will be encouraged to limit the number of personal items they bring.

Records Availability: Please be advised that if records are in use by another researcher, that will impact our ability to make them available to you within your appointment window. We will try to avoid this potential overlap to the extent possible but it is always a possibility.

Limited Research Room Services: Paper for taking notes can be provided on a limited basis. Researchers are encouraged to take notes using their phone, tablet, laptop, or other device. They are also encouraged to consult the National Archives Catalog online and digital copies of our finding aids. Researchers may bring their equipment (on the approved NARA list) to copy materials.

COVID-19 Self-Assessment: Those who are sick or do not feel well prior to their arrival to the facility should not come to their appointment. Stay home and seek medical attention as appropriate. All researchers should self-assess via the following questions prior to their arrival.

1. Have you experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 48 hours? Do not include symptoms that are explained by something other than respiratory illness (e.g. allergies, asthma, an illness that has been diagnosed as something other than COVID-19, routine aches, pain, or headaches that you normally experience).
2. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 (with or without symptoms), are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test due to an exposure or symptoms, or has a health care provider advised you to stay at home or otherwise self-isolate?
3. Are you a person who is not fully vaccinated, who has been in close physical contact (within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes) with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
4. Are you a person who is not fully vaccinated, who has traveled out of the State or region, or out of the country in the past 10 days (with no COVID test) or in the past 7 days (if you have been tested since returning)?

If you answer “Yes” to any of these questions, do not come to your research appointment and please seek medical attention.