



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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COVID-19 UBC BREB and UBC Okanagan Chairs' Bulletin #1

Dear UBC Researchers and Staff,

In addition to information you have been receiving from the University of British Columbia, we would like to inform you of the following:

- All research activities and new recruitment of participants to research that involve in-person interactions should **be suspended until further notice** (exceptions may be made in special situations, such as research involving COVID-19 or where stopping the research could put participants at risk. Please contact the BREB if you think your research fits into this exception).
- If you need to make immediate changes to your research methods, e.g. changing an in person interview to a skype interview, and will not have time to submit an amendment before engaging with participants, you may make the changes without REB approval when the change is **necessary to eliminate an immediate risk to participants** [TCPS2 Article 6.15]. You will temporarily be granted a maximum window of 10 days to submit the amendment to the BREB.
- The BREB will **continue to review** new research applications and work with PIs to bring them to a state of readiness for approval.
- No new studies involving **in-person interaction** with participants will receive a Certificate of Approval and recruitment may **not** begin until further notice (exceptions may be made in special situations, such as research involving COVID-19)
- New studies that **do not involve in-person** interaction with participants and do not pose any risks to researchers or research staff will be reviewed using standard procedures and research can begin once a certificate of approval is received.

- We ask that any New Studies, Post Approval Activities (PAAs) or e-mails sent to to the REB that relate to issues or queries relating to COVID-19 are named accordingly so that they can be easily tracked. In RISE, for **adjustments to your study**, please nickname your amendment “**COVID-19 Related Protocol Changes.**” For **new research** about COVID-19, please nickname your new RISE research application or amendment “**COVID-19 Research.**”

Please be aware that, as the current situation is very fluid, these interim policies may well change, and we will update you as necessary in future bulletins. Should you have any questions about these policies or other issues, please do not hesitate to contact Jean Ruiz, Sr. Research Ethics Analyst at jean.ruiz@ors.ubc.ca at the UBC Vancouver Campus or Lisa Shearer, Manager UBC Okanagan REB, at lisa.shearer@ubc.ca .

Karen Bartlett,
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