COVID-19 Form for Ethics Applications that Include COVID-Related Content

The BREB is committed to supporting COVID-related research projects and to ensuring that research populations receive the support needed while participating in research. Concerns have been raised about the proliferation of COVID-related research projects. These projects may place additional burdens on some participant populations with the potential for increases in psychological, social, and physical risks. With this in mind, the BREB has altered its submission process for studies that are about COVID-19 or include COVID-19-related questions.

The COVID-19 Form is designed to help researchers specify the risks and benefits of their proposed COVID-related research for the research population and more broadly. Your responses will also help the research ethics board to better understand the design and intentions of the project. Please complete this form and attach to **Box 9.7 Other Documents** in your ethics application.

If your research requires in-person contact, this form must be signed by your department head or unit lead to signify that your research is considered necessary to complete at this time. Please submit this form to your department head for signature.

A Safe Research Plan is also required for all in-person research, but your department head is not required to sign-off on it; it will be reviewed and approved by the BREB. We ask that you include it as a reference for the departmental review process, along with the COVID-19 Form. If your research is being conducted online only, the COVID-19 Form can be attached to your ethics application without a department signature.

Please review the detailed guidance before submitting your new ethics application or amendment: [Submitting Behavioural Applications during the COVID-19 restrictions](https://ethics.research.ubc.ca/behavioural-research-ethics/ubc-behavioural-guidance-during-covid-19-research-restrictions).

## Select only one option:

I am proposing to add COVID-19 questions to my previously approved ethics application.

My new proposed research is focused significantly on the impact of COVID-19

My new proposed research includes some COVID-19 related questions, but they are not the predominant focus.

Ethics ID # Click or tap here to enter text.

Please answer the following questions.

1. How does the COVID-19 related content further your research goals as stated in the ethics application (Boxes 5.1.A and B)?

Click or tap here to enter text.

*NB. If you are submitting an amendment to an already approved application and you are unable to answer question 1, a new (separate) ethics application may be needed. Please* [*contact BREB staff*](https://ethics.research.ubc.ca/about-human-research-ethics/contact-us/#ubc-breb) *before proceeding.*

1. Is the COVID-related content necessary to complete the research project, e.g. can this research be done without it?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Check all that apply and include an explanation for each. The inclusion of COVID-related content will:

Benefit research participants. E.g. improve the quality of a therapeutic program or give participants access to benefits such as care, material goods, and supports.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Benefit society or an identifiable community. E.g. indirectly influence change in policy.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Benefit the academic/research community. E.g. fill a gap in available data.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. What additional risks will be incurred by participants as a result of the COVID-related content? If you believe there are no additional risks, please explain why. If there are additional COVID-related risks, please justify the need to conduct this research.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Department Head or Unit Lead Signature (Required for in-person research only)**

This section is required **ONLY when the research is being conducted in-person**. Research that is exclusively online does not require department head or unit lead signature.

The signature on this page confirms that the UBC Department considers the described research important and necessary to conduct at this time. Please see the [Guide for Assessing Benefit and Urgency](https://ethics.research.ubc.ca/sites/ore.ubc.ca/files/documents/Guide%20for%20Assessing%20Benefit%20and%20Urgency.docx) for examples of factors to consider when making this decision. On campus research is decided by Faculty driven processes and, if this research is happening on-campus, the below signature also signifies that the research has been prioritized by the Faculty as per their process.

The research ethics board reserves all final decision making around whether a study should ultimately be conducted, based on the TCPS2 (2018) and UBC Policies around research ethics as per its normal process.

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| Department |  |
| Department Head or Unit Lead Name |  |
| Department Head or Unit Lead Signature \* |  |
| Date |  |

*\* To sign this form electronically, save as a PDF and use the signature icon in the Acrobat ribbon to enter your signature.* 