**KPU Research Ethics Board COVID-19 Memo**

Date: December 7, 2020
To: Faculty, staff, administrative and student researchers
From: Dr. Tara Lyons, Chair, KPU Research Ethics Board

The KPU REB would like to provide you with guidelines for research involving humans in response to ongoing COVID-19 Public Health Orders (PHO), protocols and the Go-Forward Guidelines for BC's Post-Secondary Sector.

The current PHO orders could impact approved in-person research studies both on-campus and in the community. It is the responsibility of each researcher, including supervisors of student researchers, to ensure that research procedures comply with the most current COVID-19 public health requirements.

Researchers with current approved in-person research studies are advised to revisit aspects of their studies (e.g. recruitment and/or data collection) that might be impacted by current PHO. It may be necessary to submit amended protocols and/or temporarily pause parts of studies.

**Guidelines and Considerations for On-Going and Future Research Involving Humans**

**Continue online research**

First and foremost, researchers are asked to avoid in-person activities in order to maintain the safety and health of research participants, research team members, and participants.

The REB will continue to receive and review all applications received, including amendments to move research activities online.

**In-person research**

Where online methods and platforms are not possible, researchers proposing new research studies that use any in-person methods or recruitment must meet additional research ethics application requirements.

When considering an ethics application for in-person research activities the REB will take into consideration COVID-19-related physical risks to participants, the community, and researchers. This analysis of risks and benefits is outlined by Article 2.7 of the TCPS 2 (2018):

> "The analysis, balance and distribution of risks and potential benefits are critical to the ethics of research involving humans. The principle of Concern for Welfare imposes an ethical obligation to design, assess and conduct research in a way that protects participants from any unnecessary or avoidable risks. In their review, REBs should be concerned with an assessment that the potential research outcomes and potential benefits merit the risks."

Principal Investigators (PIs) will be responsible for outlining how they will mitigate COVID-19 physical risks using the latest credible university (KPU COVID-19 page) and government (BC Centre for Disease Control, Worksafe BC) guidelines. REB applications that propose in-person activities will also be

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reviewed by the ORS Health Research Specialist to ensure public health and clinical guidelines are addressed.

**Expedited Review of COVID-19-Related Research**

Researchers who submit time-sensitive COVID-19-related applications may request an expedited review. If approved, the REB will aim to have a 1 week turn-around between receiving a research application and providing the PI with feedback.

**KPU Contacts and Supports**

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