
TO: Faculty, staff, administration, and student researchers

CC:

FROM: Dr. Tara Lyons, Chair, KPU Research Ethics Board

DATE: July 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Guidelines and Considerations for In-Person Research Involving Humans

The KPU Research Ethics Board has updated guidance regarding in-person research in anticipation that authorization to resume in-person behavioural research will be fully implemented over the next few months.

Re-starting in-person research

Principal Investigators are responsible for submitting amendments for any changes to approved planned research activities that increase the level of risk to participants, regardless of previous REB approval or updates in BC's Restart plan, or Provincial Health Officer's orders (PHO).

If a study with paused in-person activities is now being resumed, please submit an amendment that outlines how the study's protocols will adhere to current PHOs and how it fits into the BC's Restart phases.

New applications for in-person research

When considering an application for in-person research activities the REB will take into consideration COVID-19-related 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 will be responsible for outlining how the study protocols will adhere to current PHOs, BC's Restart phases, as well as how any COVID-19 risks will be mitigated using the latest credible university ([KPU COVID-19 page](#)) and government ([BC Centre for Disease Control](#), [WorkSafe BC](#)) guidelines.

Moving online research to in-person research

Please submit an amendment outlining the proposed protocol changes.

Principal Investigators will be responsible for outlining how the study protocols will adhere to current PHOs, BC's Restart phases, as well as how any COVID-19 risks will be mitigated using the latest credible university ([KPU COVID-19 page](#)) and government ([BC Centre for Disease Control](#), [WorkSafe BC](#)) guidelines.

KPU Contacts and Supports

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