
On Friday, March 13, 2020, President Schlissel and Vice President for Research Cunningham issued a temporary pause in all research with human participants that involves face-to-face interaction, except for projects involving drugs or medical devices that offer a direct therapeutic benefit to the participants. IRB-HSBS does not review drug or device studies. The pause applies to all studies under IRB-HSBS jurisdiction that involve a face-to-face interaction with participants, including exempt and not regulated projects.

All research that involves face-to-face interaction with research participants must pause

Examples:
- Studies that require participants to enter a U-M laboratory space
- Face-to-face interviews/focus groups
- Studies that include home visits with participants, or face-to-face meetings at other locations, even if data are collected via computer, recording, or observation of public behavior.
- Applies to all studies, including international and other U.S. sites

Projects that do not involve any face-to-face interaction with participants may continue during the pause

Examples:
- Studies for which data are collected electronically, via telephone, or via mailed surveys
- Data analysis only projects

Strategies for continuing research during the pause

- Consider whether data collection that currently takes place face-to-face could be conducted via telephone or online survey instead. For the health and safety of research participants, such changes in format can be implemented immediately; however, investigators must submit an amendment to the IRB within 5 days after implementation of the change.

COVID-19 Amendment Process

- When creating an amendment in eResearch, include COVID in the title to alert the IRB staff to the need for priority review. On the Amendment cover sheet, describe the need for the change in terms of minimizing risk under the COVID-19 emergency. Be sure to edit the actual IRB application to reflect the proposed changes.
- If your project is exempt or not regulated, an amendment is NOT REQUIRED to change the mode of data collection. Please do not amend your exempt application!

During this time, IRB review of other submissions not related to the COVID-19 emergency may be delayed.

Contact the IRB-HSBS at irbhsbs@umich.edu if you are uncertain about whether your project must pause, or you have other questions.
Other Resources

UMOR COVID-19: Research Operations at U-M

U-M Public Affairs 2019 Novel Coronavirus COVID-19