UVic Human Research Ethics COVID-19 Bulletin #4
In-person Research with Participants On Campus and In Community

Date: November 26, 2020
To: Faculty and Student Researchers
From: Sandra Gibbons, Chair, Human Research Ethics Board
       Matt Murphy, Vice-chair, Human Research Ethics Board

On November 19, 2020 Dr. Bonnie Henry issued new Public Health Restrictions for individuals, places of work and businesses to significantly reduce the level of social interactions and travel in British Columbia and combat the rising number of cases of COVID-19. The orders are in place from midnight November 20 to midnight December 7, 2020.

A summary of implications these new Public Health Orders have for the University of Victoria is provided at https://www.uvic.ca/news/topics/2020+notice-covid19-new-provincewide-restriction+notice

It is possible that these PHO orders and implications included in the UVic summary could have bearing on specific aspects of current approved in-person research studies - both on-campus and community. It is the responsibility of each researcher - including supervisors of student researchers - to ensure that procedures comply with the most current COVID-19 requirements.

Therefore, 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. It may be necessary to submit amended protocols and/or temporarily pause parts of studies.

In particular, we bring to the attention of researchers, the following effective immediately:

1. **masks** are now required in indoor public places

2. As determined by UVic Occupational Health Environment and Safety (OHSE), the new PHO order does not restrict business meetings under the formal meeting category. The PHO order for events – educational activities - are exempt from the order as well as workers at a worksite, therefore, meeting for the purpose of research (with approved human research ethics COVID-19 safety protocols) would be permitted.

3. **In-person Campus Research - Safe Work Plans**

   Please consult with UVic Occupational Health Environment and Safety (OHSE) on your existing approved Safe Work Plans to ensure they are congruent with the recent PHO orders.

4. Researchers submitting new applications or amendments that involve in-person interactions with participants and communities, please continue to refer to the guidance in Human
Research Ethics Bulletin #3 (July 16, 2020) documents and any additional requirements that this new Public Health Order might present

For assistance, please contact the Human Research Ethics Office ethics@uvic.ca

We recognize that these are challenging circumstances for researchers. We appreciate your patience and cooperation. Please continue to monitor the Human Research Ethics homepage and the UVic website for response to COVID-19 updates.