UVic Human Research Ethics COVID-19 Bulletin #5
Guidance for the Resumption of In-person Research with Human Participants
Under COVID-19 Restrictions

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To: Faculty and Student Researchers
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This Bulletin outlines current guidance for the safe and gradual resumption of in-person research activities with human participants in studies under the Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) to minimize the spread of COVID19 during the global pandemic.

The following applies to research involving human participants in clinical and behavioural research conducted in UVic campus facilities, classrooms and spaces (on-campus) and in community (off-campus) locales - locally, nationally, and internationally.

NEW In-person Activities in Community (off-campus) Research - Please see new UVic Occupational Health Safety Environment (OHSE) requirement in section 3.

Effective Immediately and Until Further Notice

1) Stay with remote and virtual methods

   To maintain the safety and health of research participants, research team members, collaborators, Indigenous nations and community organizations etc., researchers should continue to use remote/virtual methods and platforms, where possible.

   The HREB will continue to receive and review all applications received, including amendments to switch in-person activities and components to remote/virtual methods and platforms.
   Resources: FAQ on Conducting Research Virtually with Human Participants

2) In-person research with human participants under COVID-19 restrictions

   Where remote/virtual methods and platforms are not feasible, researchers proposing to resume approved paused studies or to initiate new research which utilize in-person activities/components must meet additional human research ethics application requirements.

   The above applies also to researchers whose studies were granted “Deferred Approval” status during the suspension of in-person research.

3) To complete the additional human research ethics application requirements please use the following:
On-Campus Research – Instructions for Human Research Ethics

Community (off-campus) Research – Instructions for Human Research Ethics

NEW In-person Activities in Community (off-campus) Research, UVic Occupational Health Safety Environment (OHSE) requirement added to Instructions

Annotated Guidance for In-person Research with Human Participants under COVID-19 Restrictions

Researchers who propose to use in-person activities during COVID-19 restrictions must be prepared for a sudden shut down in the event of new directives and advisories from the BC government, WorkSafe BC, public health entities, Indigenous nations as well as other regional, national or international directives or outbreaks that impact a specific study.

Please check the Human Research Ethics homepage for COVID-19 updates and instructions.