



## DIVISION OF RESEARCH

March 21, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Most **minimal risk** projects should be able to seamlessly and expeditiously move to remote interactions. However, it is important that we look at projects, specifically ones that present **greater than minimal risk**, which would normally not qualify for an alternative consent process. Most of our BIG10 IRB colleagues are not permitting a remote consent process for projects presenting greater than minimal risk. We will consider these on a case-by-case basis to determine feasibility for an alternative consent process. Please email the IRB Office at [irb@umd.edu](mailto:irb@umd.edu) with questions.

**Please note the following regarding IRB Approved projects presenting no greater than minimal risk:**

- 1) **Amendment Not Required:** You may move to a remote consent process without submitting an Amendment application as long as the electronic consent process involves a participant electronically signing the consent document, such as typing their name into a consent document.
- 2) **Amendment Required:** Your remote consent process will now include only a check box/radio button, 'clicking next to indicate consent', or a switch to verbal consent.

In all cases, we are also fast tracking transactions that alter the conduct of the previously approved project due to the current restrictions on in-person interactions. We ask that you notify us that you have submitted an Amendment to modify the consent process. Please email [irb@umd.edu](mailto:irb@umd.edu) with these notifications.

In addition, we are fast tracking Initial Applications that are studying the virus. We are reminding investigators that in-person human research interactions are not currently permitted. Please communicate with us via [irb@umd.edu](mailto:irb@umd.edu).

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Smith  
Director, Human Research Protection Program  
Division of Research  
University of Maryland