Community-based Research

The current ban on research in community settings will be relaxed, effective immediately, and community-based research is allowed to resume. Researchers must follow all guidelines set by the collaborating entity (e.g., nursing home, school, community center, etc.). A letter from the collaborating entity is required stating that University of Maryland researchers are permitted to conduct studies in their facilities. This letter must be included in your IRB Application.

Clinical Research and Other Campus Research Involving Human Subjects

Researchers conducting clinical research and other human subjects research on campus must wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, unless they are alone in their work space. There is no density requirement, but researchers should practice physical distancing where possible. In addition, human subjects research participants must wear masks during research visits/appointments when possible.

Vulnerable and High Risk Populations

This includes children under 12 years of age, unvaccinated individuals, immunocompromised individuals, or anyone at an increased risk of COVID-19 infection (according to CDC guidance). In addition to the above stated mask and physical distancing guidance, **face shields** must be worn if interacting with high-risk or vulnerable populations **on campus** for research purposes.

This means that Resuming Human Subject Research Plans are no longer required. The info in the above notice is the new standard. Masks must be worn by all during in-person Human Subject Research activities when possible. We ask that you continue to exercise best and safe practices as we move forward.

Consent Language

COVID Risk language for the Consent Form Risks section is available for use if you wish to use it. Please feel free to modify as needed for your project.

Pre-Screening Questionnaire

A COVID Pre-Screening Questionnaire is available if you wish to use it.

International Research

Please follow recommendations from local and regional public health and governance. This is allowable provided you and your collaborative teams follow all the recommendations in the specific regions and adhere to all in country restrictions and regulations. You must document those country approvals for human subjects interactions in each of the countries/sections you will be collecting data. This includes remote interviews and collection of data.

Please Note: During Quality Assurance monitoring on these projects it is expected that the supporting in country documentation must be on file for review by the IRB Office and Quality Assurance Team.

We appreciate everyone who has stuck with us to make this work during the pandemic. Please reach out to irb@umd.edu or askresearchadmin@umd.edu with any questions. We will do our best to respond quickly.