

## Rhode Island College IRB

### Guidance for Resuming In-Person Research

**Note.** This document is subject to change as conditions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic change.

- When possible, all in person research that has already been approved should be done virtually for the near future. **An IRB amendment is needed if you are changing the procedures associated with data collection in order to make it virtual.**
- We encourage investigators to consider whether new human subjects research studies involving in-person participant contact must be submitted to the IRB at this time. If delay is not possible, researchers are advised to submit applications that include study procedures that allow for flexibility to in-person contact.
- In-person research should follow CDC guidelines.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/lab-safety-practices.html>
- If an in-person interaction is required, all participants should be screened by phone in advance. Please follow screening procedures  
[https://www.reopeningri.com/resource\\_pdfs/COVID19\\_Screening\\_Tool\\_English-NEW.pdf](https://www.reopeningri.com/resource_pdfs/COVID19_Screening_Tool_English-NEW.pdf)
- Researchers should specifically let participants know that they should contact their research coordinator before coming in for their appointment if they fit into any of the categories listed in the screening tool above.
- Researchers must follow CDC guidelines on how to protect themselves and what to do if they are sick. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- The number of required research personnel present during the interaction with the subject(s) should be limited to the minimum required to perform or assist with the interaction.
- If research subjects do not have the required PPE recommended by Environmental Health and Safety's Guidelines, such PPE must be provided by the researcher to.
- Students collecting data in-person must sign an assurance document before conducting research.
- If research is going to be conducted on campus, the plan must be reviewed and approved by the COVID-19 Steering Committee before that research can commence.
- If research is being conducted off campus in another facility, then faculty must adhere to those facilities' recommendations. There must be a letter from the facility that there are covid-19 protocols in place and the research is adhering to them.