Although CCSU’s physical campus is closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the IRB is still fully available to review research through our normal online review process. Any research protocols that require full committee review will continue to be reviewed according to our published meeting schedule. These meetings will be conducted through WebEx videoconferences until campus re-opens.

Given the current limitations on in-person interactions due to social distancing, investigators should consider whether at any point their planned research procedures should be revised to limit personal contacts, for example by reducing the frequency of in-person visits or replacing in-person interviews with telephone or Internet contacts. Whether and when this may be advisable will vary depending on your protocol and the subjects with whom you are working.

We want to remind you that while the federal regulations that guide our oversight of research require that the IRB reviews revisions to protocols before they are implemented, there is one important exception, “where necessary to eliminate apparent immediate hazards to the human subjects.” 21 CFR 56.108(a)(4).

Should you determine that changes in your procedures are required due to the current pandemic, you may implement them immediately, without prior notice to or approval from the IRB if your human participants are at risk. You will need to ensure that you are not introducing other risks, and you may need to ask participants to sign revised informed consent forms. All changes should be reported to the IRB as soon as possible. If a full revised protocol modification cannot be completed either prior to any changes or within 5 business days of implementing emergency modifications, please contact the IRB at irb@ccsu.edu to discuss your specific concerns.

The IRB does not need to be notified if research has been halted. Protocol modifications are only required for changes to ongoing research.

Please contact us if you have any questions. You may email irb@ccsu.edu, bowman@ccsu.edu, or nicole.ferrari@ccsu.edu with your research-related questions and concerns.