In-person human subjects research interactions at CCSU will resume on June 1, 2021 with additional review processes in place.

As of June 1st, research studies which include in-person research interventions that may increase the risk of COVID-19 infection will require a separate review for COVID-19 safety mitigation in addition to a traditional IRB review. Studies which do not involve in-person research interactions will continue to be reviewed and approved through the IRB's normal processes.

Until the community risk of COVID-19 transmission is further reduced, the IRB strongly encourages all investigators to design their planned research procedures to eliminate face-to-face contact wherever possible. This may be accomplished by conducting research using techniques such as online surveys or secondary data analyses which are inherently virtual, or by adjusting research designs to eliminate the necessity of in-person interactions. Whether and when this may be practicable will vary depending on the protocol and the subjects with whom you are working. The IRB is available to assist researchers with the development of a research plan designed to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Researchers who do wish to conduct in-person research will need to complete a COVID-19 Research Safety Application Form prior to restarting or beginning all in-person research interactions. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the IRB. Further guidance regarding risk levels, required risk mitigation strategies and other elements that will be necessary components of this safety mitigation review process can be found along with the COVID-19 Research Safety Application Form under the Forms section of the IRB website.

As a reminder, all changes to ongoing studies, whether they involve in-person contact or not, must be submitted to the IRB via a Protocol Modification Submission Form. If a protocol modification cannot be submitted prior to any changes or within 5 business days of implementing emergency modifications “to eliminate apparent immediate hazards to the human subjects” in accordance with the federal regulations outlined in 21 CFR 56.108(a)(4), please contact the IRB at irb@ccsu.edu to discuss your specific concerns.

Please contact us at irb@ccsu.edu if you have any questions about this updated guidance.