

## **Guidelines for Resumption of Research, COVID-19**

**Date Effective: August 31, 2020**

### **Resumption of in-person contact with human research participants**

Before resuming research that includes in-person contact with human participants (a.k.a., human subjects), primary investigators (PIs) must submit a written resumption request and receive approval from the Dean of their college, where appropriate, and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. The request should specifically address the HECC/OHA requirement that “human subjects research shall be permitted only if six-foot physical distancing can be maintained or can be completed with minimal physical contact while wearing appropriate PPE and/or use of a physical barrier, and with additional limits to protect vulnerable populations ([OHA/HECC Guidance](#)).”

In the written request PIs should provide a detailed resumption plan for physical distancing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or physical barriers, and for reducing risk to participants, researchers, and research assistants (including students), and specific provisions for vulnerable populations. The proposal should also provide current information about the study population and specific risks related to COVID-19 and a plan for contact tracing in the case that a research participant exhibits symptoms or contracts COVID-19. PIs should identify any restrictions or requirements at the specific research location and how they will meet them. This may include university, county, and state policies.

In addition, if the research participants will be on WOU’s campus, the plan must address the HECC/OHA requirement that “research offices, labs, core facilities, and field locations shall be modified to ensure appropriate physical distancing, consistent with state and local public health guidelines, and with reduced capacity as/if necessary ([OHA/HECC Guidance](#)).” PIs should coordinate with the business managers in their divisions to request PPE and/or physical modifications needed to reduce risk for faculty, staff, and students involved in the research.

Written resumption requests should be endorsed by the PI’s Division Chair and submitted by email to the Dean of the PI’s college and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

If resumption plans incur any changes to their Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved research protocols, PIs should also submit a modification request to the WOU IRB (<https://wou.edu/irb/>).

### **Resumption of research activities in research offices, labs, and field locations that do not include in-person contact with human participants**

Before resuming research that does not include in-person contact with human participants (a.k.a., human subjects), PIs and Directors of research offices, labs, core facilities and

field locations, must submit a resumption request and receive approval from the Dean of their college, where appropriate and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. The request should provide a plan for how they will adhere to the HECC/OHA requirements that “research offices, labs, core facilities, and field locations shall be modified to ensure appropriate physical distancing, consistent with state and local public health guidelines, and with reduced capacity as/if necessary ([OHA/HECC Guidance](#)).” PIs and Directors should coordinate with the business managers in their divisions request PPE and/or physical modifications needed to offices and labs in order to reduce risk for faculty, staff, and students involved in the research.

Written resumption requests should be endorsed by the PI’s Division Chair, where applicable, and submitted by email to the Dean of the PIs college and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

If resumption plans incur any changes to the IRB approved research protocols, PIs should also submit a modification request to the WOU IRB (<https://wou.edu/irb/>).

\*Note: these requirements do not apply to research offices, labs, and field locations that are used solely for instructional purposes (e.g., to teach research methods, lab-based coursework, etc.).