

The University of Windsor REB continues to review all new submissions for ethics review on a weekly basis, and is prioritizing research related to COVID-19 for rapid review.

The REB has suspended the need for submission of paper copies and is accepting all forms with electronic signatures, and will continue to review requests to revise, progress, and final reports, as well as unanticipated and adverse events as they are received. All submissions and communication to the REB should be sent to the ethics mailbox at ethics@uwindsor.ca.

The REB is available to researchers and study participants via email through the ethics mailbox at ethics@uwindsor.ca. You can also leave a voicemail for the Office of Research Ethics at 519-253-3000, extension 3948. Both the ethics email and voicemail are monitored daily by the REB Chair and Office of Research Ethics.

Updates from the Office of the Vice-President of Research and Innovation

April 15, 2020:

First and foremost, all our policies and actions must conform to the criteria of safety and physical distancing:

- Research which is conducted on-line, does not require the research to be on campus, and does not require any travel by the research team or the research participants may continue;
- All research which requires travel to campus or another site (even if only one person is travelling) must be suspended unless it meets the following criteria:
 - It is considered "Essential" as determined through consultation involving researchers and Departmental Heads or Institute Directors (or Deans where appropriate);
 - It has been approved as Essential by the Faculty Dean, and authorized for resumption as such by the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI);
- COVID-19 research, in general, can proceed; however, any specific project needs to be approved as such by the Dean and the VPRI;
- For designation as Essential, field research must provide satisfactory plans regarding travelling, field activities, participants, dates and schedules, emergency plans (e.g., regarding sickness), and where appropriate, approval by the hosting authority and/or community;
- For designation as Essential, laboratory research must provide satisfactory plans regarding participants, dates and schedules, safety, physical-distancing, sanitization and disinfection of equipment and the laboratory; and
- The details above must be updated and sent to the Dean when there are changes necessitated by circumstance; this information will be invaluable in the case of an emergency.
- Staff and students are not obligated to participate in any research activities should they deem that by doing so they would be subjecting themselves or their families to risks and have the rights to voice their concerns to the Dean; and
- Resumption of all other research activities can only occur after abatement of the impact of COVID-19 and on authorization of the President.

Please visit the Covid-19 Research and Innovation Guidance page on the Office of the VPRI website at: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/vp-research/353/covid-19-research-and-innovation-guidance>