Allowable Human Subjects Research Decision Tree during COVID-19

The HSRC developed the following decision tree to assist researchers with determining whether their projects will be permitted at this time.

1. Does the proposed research involve essential in-person interactions? (That is, the research cannot reasonably be accomplished through methods such as phone, video, email, online, etc.)
   
   **IF NO, RESEARCH MAY NOT BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON**

2. [For STUDENT investigators] Is the proposed research essential to meet degree requirements for a student graduating in Spring 2022?
   
   **IF NO, RESEARCH MAY NOT BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON**

3. Does the proposed research follow the best practices listed below?
   - Does the research proposal exclude vulnerable populations including but not limited to individuals with diabetes, known cardiovascular disease, or other potential health risks?
   - Does the research proposal exclude older individuals (over the age of 65), especially if they have chronic medical conditions or are frail?
   - Will social distancing (at least 6 feet) be maintained at all times OR will prolonged, close interaction (less than 6 feet) be limited to a cumulative total of less than 15 minutes for all procedures?
   - Will research personnel and participants wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., face masks, gloves, goggles, lab coat, etc.) throughout all in-person study procedures?
   - Will research personnel and participants complete a COVID-19 screening/attestation immediately before in-person interactions?
   - Will the number of research personnel present during data collection be limited to one?
   - Will the number of research participants present during data collection be limited to one?
   - Will frequent and effective disinfecting procedures according to the CDC and University policy be carried out during and between participants?

   *If you answered NO to any of the above questions, or if you have any questions regarding research during the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact the HSRC office at hsrc@cwu.edu to discuss the study.*

4. You may submit an HSRC application for the proposed research; however, either HSRC and/or the University administration may still decline the proposal due to elevated risks during the pandemic.