

## 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**

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**IF YES TO QUESTION 1 and [if applicable] QUESTION 2 ABOVE**

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](mailto:hsrc@cwu.edu) to discuss the study.***

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**IF YES TO ALL QUESTIONS ABOVE**

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.