

Impact of COVID-19 on Human Subjects Research

UC Santa Barbara
Office of Research Integrity
Human Research Protections





Office of Research Integrity status

- Fully operational
- All staff working remotely
- Committee meetings being held and on schedule
- Prioritizing requests related to shutdown and COVID-19
- Conducting virtual meetings with researchers

Office of Research Staff

- Barry Rowan, Director
- Melodie Blakemore, Associate Director
- Melissa Warren, Senior Human Subjects Coordinator
- Rebeca Lopez, Human Subjects Specialist - **New**
- Sean Mayuga, Research Integrity Specialist - IACUC
- Erin Hakim, COI Administrator & Global Engagement - **New**
- Brian McCurdy, Export Control Officer



Primary Resources

- 1) Office of Research COVID-19 webpage
- 2) Human Subjects COVID-19 webpage

UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of Research

About Research Development Sponsored Projects Research Integrity Institutes & Centers Project Lifecycle

COVID-19 Information for UCSB Researchers

Last updated: April 6, 2020

This website provides updates on the status of UC Santa Barbara research support operations. The University is following guidance issued by the CDC, California Department of Public Health, and Santa Barbara County Public Health. Additionally, more information and updates can be found on the [UC Santa Barbara COVID-19 website](#).

Also see [Guidance for Proposals and Awards During COVID-19](#) and [Research Productivity Resources During COVID-19](#)

Shutdown of All On-Campus Research

[On-campus research is not permitted at this time](#) (see Vice Chancellor for Research Joe Incandela's [March 18 memo](#)). Under no condition is research equipment, chemicals, materials etc. to be taken off-campus. Only remote research, defined as that which can be done remotely and does not require laboratory equipment and supplies, may be performed until further notice.

UPDATES FROM VCR INCANDELA

Message from the Vice Chancellor for Research (3/18/20): "Over the past week, the COVID-19 pandemic has reached serious levels of infection in many parts of the country including California. It is now in our county, our town, and very likely on campus, though we do not see it yet. Intuition tells us that we do not have to move quickly, but for this pandemic, hesitation has proved to be very costly. Waiting for definitive evidence of many confirmed infections puts our community in very serious danger. This lesson has been learned repeatedly across the globe. Data at hand

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About Human Subjects ORahs For Researchers Resources

[Office of Research](#) / [Research Integrity](#) / Human Subjects

Human Subjects

COVID-19 Information

- [Memo regarding in-person human subjects research](#)
- [Shutdown of all on-campus research](#) - March 18, 2020
- [COVID-19 Webpage for Human Subjects Research](#)

Impact on human subjects research

- In-person and on-campus research paused
- Remote research may continue, if practical
- Modifications to add remote procedures
- Exceptions for critical research (few granted):
 - Great loss and can be done safely
 - COVID-19 related
- International research is subject to same restrictions

Alternatives to in-person interaction



Web surveys (e.g., Qualtrics, MTurk)



Telephone or audio-video conferencing
(e.g., Zoom, Skype)



Mail surveys



Data analysis, either secondary use
projects or data analysis activities on
other project

Modifying a study in response to COVID-19

IRB approval required

- Label modification as COVID-19

These modification requests have been prioritized

- Often within days instead of weeks

Informed consent must be obtained, unless a waiver was previously granted

- May require a change in process

Submitting new studies

Most studies

Continue to submit - no need to wait until return to normal

Remote procedures only - normal process

In-person procedures - certify they will not take place until research pause is lifted

COVID-19 related

Label study as COVID-19 in the Title, AND

Obtain approval in accordance with VCR memo and website

Impact to sponsored research

- Review COVID-19 Guidance for Proposals and Awards webpage
- Follow sponsor specific guidance if scope of work impacted
- Encouraged to pursue new funding opportunities

Questions from the chat?

