On March 19, 2020, the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs issued temporary measures that we must implement to support the Sacramento County Health Department’s health order and do our part to protect the health of our community **“including temporarily suspending active on-campus research**.  We will need to continue to maintain our labs, facilities, and animals in our care.  However, we expect all active on-campus research to be suspended until further notice.”

FAQ’S

1. **Is the IRB still operational? What about during Summer months?**

**The Institutional Review Board is fully operational**. Staff are working remotely and all IRB meetings are being held remotely via Zoom.

During the Summer, only minimal risk research is reviewed (exempt and expedited reviews).

1. **Can I still interact with my research subjects?**

Please move any in-person interaction or intervention to online platforms, such as [Qualtrics](https://idp.csus.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/POST/SSO?execution=e1s1) and [Zoom](https://www.csus.edu/information-resources-technology/zoom/zoom-security.html), or phone call. Please follow [IRT’s guidelines](https://www.csus.edu/information-resources-technology/zoom/zoom-security.html) for protecting your Zoom communications and files. If interaction/intervention cannot be performed remotely, the activity must be postponed until further notice. This applies to faculty, staff, and student human subjects research.

1. **Do I need to modify my protocol for remote visits or schedule changes?**

You do not need to modify the application in order to hold visits remotely or change the schedule if the study is *minimal risk* (i.e. exempt or expedited), or if the IRB application does not describe whether the visit would be in person or remote or give specifics about visit schedule.

If the study is *greater than minimal risk* (approved by the Full Board) and the application specifies in person visits, you may need to modify the application before implementing any changes (unless they are necessary to eliminate apparent hazards to the participant and there is not time to obtain IRB approval).

You might also consider whether you will need other flexibility in order to continue implementing the research. For example, many low risk procedures qualify for a waiver of written documentation (signed) consent. If the application describes written consent, you may wish to modify it to remove that requirement to allow for easier remote implementation. The alternative would be verbal consent that is recorded by the Principal Investigator, or consent via email or text.

1. **I have a deadline to complete my thesis/dissertation. What are my options?**

You should work with your faculty advisors and mentors to find ways to continue with your research under the new constraints (e.g., closed libraries, closed research labs, restrictions on human subjects research). How to do this will require creativity, flexibility, and good communication with your faculty advisors and mentors.

We encourage you to begin consulting with your faculty mentors to develop an alternative plan. This might include:

* Working on another aspect of your academic development in lieu of previously planned fieldwork or research
* Secondary data analysis. Does someone or some entity already have the data you need?
  + Universities, foundations, or other entities may have datasets upon request and completion of a Data Use Agreement.
  + It is not uncommon for students to explore similar topics, and those students may have de-identified data that could be useful. Faculty may also have useful data.
  + If researchers (data creators) can provide de-identified data, no IRB review is required. If identifiers are included, an IRB review is required and will be quickly completed.
* Content analysis
* Changes to the research question that would allow for online surveys or Zoom interviews.

1. **Please** [**review your active protocols**](https://csus.cayuse424.com/rs/irb/) **to determine if a modification is necessary.**

If your study is minimal risk, you likely do not need a modification for remote data collection or changing your schedule.

If you have any questions about whether your study requires modification, contact Leah Vargas at [leah.vargas@csus.edu](mailto:leah.vargas@csus.edu).

* [**Submitting a Modification**](https://www.csus.edu/compliance/research-integrity-compliance/_internal/_documents/cayuse-post-approval-reports-submissions.pdf) (Students who submitted to their department/college do not submit modifications in Cayuse)
* [**Human Subjects Research webpage**](https://www.csus.edu/compliance/research-integrity-compliance/human-subjects-research.html)