

## [INSITUTION] REB Guidance during COVID-19 Outbreak

In light of the COVID 19 outbreak, the [INSITUTION] REBs advise investigators to consider if their research protocols could be modified or delayed, to limit personal contacts, laboratory visits or trips into clinics and hospitals. Specifically, in some research settings in-person participant interactions could be reduced and/or replaced with telephone or online communication. Considerations include the nature of your protocol, the type of participants engaged in the research, and any additional risk that may arise by switching from in-person to virtual communication. Revised participant consents or consent addendums may be required (e.g., to update privacy considerations with use of different communication channels). Where research staff are feeling unwell, care should be taken to stay home to prevent transmission of any illness. If COVID-19 is known or suspected, Public Health [PROVINCE] protocols should be followed ([LINK](#))

While TCPS 2 typically requires review and approval of modifications prior to implementation, an exception can be made where the change is necessary to eliminate an immediate risk to participant(s) (Article 6.15). Such changes may be implemented but must be reported to the REB at the earliest opportunity (within 5 business days as a guide).

A reminder that where the research involves physical assessments and use of equipment (e.g., metabolic carts, facemasks, mouthpieces, noseclips, straps, turbines, valves, tubing, cannula, treadmills, etc.) disinfection according to manufacturer's standards where applicable is paramount and use of single use accessories is advisable. In the absence of manufacturers standards, thorough cleaning between participants is advised.

Please see Health Canada's website for up-to-date information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>