

**Notice to all MSVU Faculty, Staff and Students conducting research with human participants:
*Supervisors of student research that involves human research participants are asked to forward this message to them as soon as possible***

At this time, the University Research Ethics Board (UREB) would like to reach out to you to provide a few notes regarding your research and the ongoing support activities of the UREB.

Research Ethics Boards and the Departmental Research Ethics Boards:

1. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the UREB, DREBs, and the Research Ethics Coordinator will continue to do our best to provide service to the university community, for research involving human participants or their data.
2. Please ensure that you review the attached “**Research Contingency Planning Guidelines**”. Highlights of the research ethics portion follows below:

Research Involving Human Participants

1. The intake and review of new applications will continue if circumstances allow. Researchers should be aware that REB clearance of any new applications will be delayed until **May 1st, 2020*** at this time.
 - a. New research related to or arising from the COVID-19 pandemic that is submitted for ethical review may be given priority for review.
2. Should the University experience a complete closure to all non-essential personnel, all current research with human participants will immediately be placed on hold. An announcement to that effect will be sent electronically from the Research Office.
3. In the interests of public safety and minimizing personal contact, ongoing research conducted face-to-face that cannot be moved online or via telephone must cease until further notice.
 - a. Modifications to this effect ([REB.FORM.002](#)) is required.
 - b. If research with human participants cannot be postponed, please contact the REB at ethics@msvu.ca and provide details.
4. Researchers with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Research Ethics Board via email at ethics@msvu.ca.

**Note the May 1st date for clearance and start for protocols reviewed at this time is tentative. The situation is fluid and we may have to adjust this as we move forward. For protocols that need to begin prior to this date, researchers are encouraged to contact us with details and rationale for consideration.*

3. Research ethics review and the workings of the UREB office will operate remotely until further notice. Applications, inquiries, and requests for initial and continuing research ethics review must be submitted electronically to ethics@msvu.ca . Please do not submit or send any documents in hard copy.
4. We urge our researchers and colleagues to take all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while conducting research with human participants. Follow all [provincial](#) and [federal](#) guidelines for stopping the spread of infection. Implementing the principle of social distancing, frequent hand washing, and frequent disinfection of surfaces are essential.
5. For more information on MSVU’s response and the most current updates, please see www.msvu.ca/coronavirus

Contacts

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Please bear with us as we deal with these challenges and know that we are working hard to serve our research community as best as we can.

Please take care and be safe.

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