

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Minutes of the Meeting of

Monday, May 27, 2020

Zoom meeting

Present: C. Yost (Chair), K. McNutt, T. Grande, K. Irwin, D. Meban, L. Hoeber, I. Al-Anbagi, S.Khan, J. Wagner, C. Butz, C. Bradely, R. Deschamps, A. Henni, M. Sanchez, N. Jones, K. Rasmussen, S. Zilles, A. Miller, T. Salm

Resource: P. Splett (Research Office), recorder

Guest: Chris Street – Research Ethics Board Chair

Regrets: D. Moen, F. Freddolini, D. Meban, S. Gray, S. Petty, Y. Harrison, P. Streete

1. Phase 2 Document for Return to Research
 - a. This document will be used to inform changes in the REB process reflective of the Covid situation.
2. Expected Date to begin – June 8, 2020
 - a. This Date coincides with the Governments phase 3 opening for June 8
3. Comments on Phase 2 document
 - a. Phase 2 introduces face-to-face contact and needs Research Ethics Board input.
 - b. Need clear messaging to researchers and university community on protocol from REB, CCR and Risk Assessment committee.
 - c. REB would like risk assessment approval to accompany the REB applications.
 - d. Add REB related implications to the Phase 2 document.
 - e.
4. Research Ethics Board (REB) is now reopened to accept applications.
 - i. All applications require a Risk Assessment request.
 - ii. Applicants will be required to divide their methodology descriptions into two parts, A and B, one that explains the non-human contact data collection (A) and one that explains the human-contact data collection (B) procedures.
 - iii. Approvals will be provided for data collected remotely or in-person with groups of 10 or less.

- iv. REB approvals will say “Cleared to conduct part (A)” and “Authorized to conduct part (B) when conditions improve”. The Principle investigator then has the discretion and responsibility to decide the “when conditions improve” part.
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- 5. REB turn-around time is approximately 16 days.
 - 6. Outcome of REB and Risk Assessment application discussion.
 - a. REB to only review ethics.
 - b. REB needs to change the consent form.
 - c. Health & Safety is not part of the REB review.
 - d. REB assess the risk to the participants: physical and psychological risk.
 - e. The Risk Assessment committee reviews to help REB with Covid specific responses.
 - f. CCR committee responsible for developing the roll-out of phases.
 - g. CCR and CCR subcommittee responsible to recommend internal phase documents to the VPR.
 - 7. Next Steps
 - a. Development of Phase 3 document with direction from VPR.

Adjournment

Phase 2: Orange- Moderate Level of Restrictions and continued diligence on physical distancing and hygiene practices.

The U of R Phase 2 can begin to accommodate human-participant focused research activities in addition to the lab based Phase 1 re-opening. Phase 2 is divided into two research relevant categories: 2a). Lab based activities with no human subjects and 2b) human participant focused research where restrictions are reflective of the Phase 2 parameters in the Saskatchewan Government's plan.

Phase 2 has multiple dates of implementation as specified by the classification of activity. For example the opening of additional on-campus buildings in Phase 2a will occur first.

Phase 2a- On Campus Lab focus

Phase 2 is predicated on an evidence based assessment that Phase 1 has been successfully implemented; including proper functioning of the scheduling and monitoring processes and that physical distancing is readily achieved. Phase 2 allows for 2 individuals in a lab / space. This is conditional on the ability to maintain **physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet)**. All individuals permitted to re-enter research spaces must have University of Regina ID numbers (i.e. faculty members, grad students, research associates, post-docs, and undergraduate research students).

Phase 2 affords the opportunity to increase the number of on-campus buildings that have research activities and includes research spaces in the Lab Building and Education Building, additional studio space in the Riddell Centre. Also expanded is the scope of room access for research activities. For example, graduate students can return to computer simulation labs and graduate student offices where it is essential for them to access the office for research based activities. However, only one student is permitted in the office space at any given time- subject to approval of the room scheduling. Faculty Associate Deans (Research) can help to coordinate the room scheduling, as needed or required.

Requests for access to space must still be taken through the Risk Assessment Process.

Phase 2b- Human-participant Focus

There are some types of human-participant research that can, and has been proceeding, within the scope of the Government Phase 1 as they can follow the precautionary principle. Research which involves non face-to-face interaction (e.g., interviews, focus groups, conversations occurring over phone, Zoom, Skype, FaceTime) has been and remains within acceptable standards. This type of interaction can be undertaken with no risk to the researcher, research assistants, or participants.

On June 8, the Province of Saskatchewan proposes to enter into Phase 3 of re-opening the economy. In light of the businesses eligible to be open in Phase 3, it seems appropriate to allow some level of face-to-face research to proceed.

Defined eligible forms of human-participant focused research for Phase 2 recognizes that there are multiple ways of referencing this kind of work that is discipline specific (human-centred; community-engaged/ based/ oriented; socially-engaged practice). For example within art-making, the following are used to address nuances in methodologies: public practice, socially

engaged art, [community art](#), new-genre public art, [participatory art](#), [interventionist art](#), [collaborative art](#), [relational art](#) and dialogical aesthetics.

For Phase 2, we are recommending medium risk research with human participants can proceed (e.g., face-to-face research). For this document, “risk” refers to risk of transmitting and contracting COVID-19. Research can proceed if:

- The total number of people meeting for the research activities is less than 10. Ideally, research is conducted with a minimum number of people (i.e., one researcher (graduate student or faculty member), one participant).
- Physical distancing can be maintained with reasonable certainty.
- Protective measures in place- i.e. cloth face masks (PHAC is advising this for individuals going out in public).
- Stringent hand hygiene and disinfection procedures are followed.
- Equipment or objects are not shared between people (e.g., pens, paper, markers, etc.). If they are shared, they must be disinfected before another person uses it.
- All participants and parties consent to meet in person.
- All parties are healthy. Anyone who is sick must stay home. The space is properly cleaned after the meeting / interaction.
- The project has received U of R REB ethics' approval.

Of note, as per the Government of Saskatchewan’s guidelines, older adults and / or “those with underlying risk factors should use caution” when participating in research projects.