



Office of Research Compliance

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Human Research Protection Program

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928-523-9551
<http://nau.edu/IRB>

IRB COVID-19 Research Guidance

<https://nau.edu/nau-research/research-safety-and-compliance/human-research-protection-program/>

Dear NAU Research Community,

The Institutional Review Board at Northern Arizona aims to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in research. During this unprecedented time, investigators must consider transmission and potential exposure risks to participants, research teams and to the community. If you are planning on continuing in-person research activities or revising research procedures in response to COVID-19, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to notify the IRB. Human subject research protection guidance is to move to remote activities as much as possible, and in-person activities that are proposed should include a plan to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission to human subjects. Re-scheduling in-person activities to a later time does not need to be reported to the IRB provided these changes do not negatively impact participant safety and welfare.

If you need to change an approved research protocol, including key personnel, study procedures, recruitment text or locations, data collection measures, or eligibility, these changes must be reviewed by the IRB per [amendment guidance](#). Changes in order to eliminate apparent immediate hazards to research participants can be reported to the IRB per [reporting guidance](#). Whether and when this may be advisable will vary depending on your protocol activities and the risk and benefit to participants with whom you are working. Please see the [FDA guidance](#) on research conducted during COVID-19 for your additional reference.

IRB operations continue as normal and work will continue to be processed in a timely fashion. Please see the NAU website for up-to-date IRB submission instructions, guidance, education opportunities and FAQs or contact the office main line (irb@nau.edu, 928-523-9551).

Please continue to check the NAU website for new information in this fluid situation:
nau.edu/coronavirus.