



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

October 28, 2020

Dear UTK Human Subjects Research Community,

I hope this letter finds everyone well in these trying times. Please know that I am in awe of your continued patience, resilience, and ingenuity during this time. As you are all aware, in-person research was suspended in March with a limited reopening over the summer based on risk/benefit criteria. This was a challenging decision for me and the HRPP, but it was made in the interest of protecting our researchers, participants, students, faculty, and staff.

While COVID-19 is still present, I am pleased to lift the restrictions on in-person research further. Effective today, October 28, 2020, all categories of in-person research may resume after submission and acceptance by the HRPP of the following documentation:

- Completed Request to Resume In-Person Research Activity form;
- Approved Health Safety Plan with COVID-19 procedures, and if conducting research off-campus, submit the site's COVID-19 safety procedures/ policies;
- Screening questions and procedures for COVID-19;
- Information sheet for participants on COVID-19;
- Contact Tracing Log;
- Proof of supervisor approval and completed return-to-work training for all researchers who will be on campus, and
- Procedures for contacting participants, staff, and university if an infection is confirmed or presumed positive for COVID-19.

Please note that these items are required and are designed to protect both you and your research participants. This submission also provides a mechanism for the HRPP staff to directly contact individual researchers if the public health status of our campus or community changes in a manner requiring additional alterations to research protocols.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to outstanding research. If you have any questions, please contact our HRPP office by email (utkirb@utk.edu) or by phone (865-974-7697).

Respectfully,

Sarah T. Pruett, PhD
Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Responsible Conduct of Research
Institutional Research Integrity Officer

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