PURDUE UNIVERSITY

HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION PROGRAM & INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

July 12, 2021- Update from Purdue Human Research Protection Program (HRPP):

Purdue HRPP continues to follow the research operations processes outlined in recent Protect Purdue guidance, that details current procedures for research spaces and visitors to campus. Purdue researchers are advised to follow the latest information posted on the Purdue COVID-19 research website. The Principal Investigator (PI) of the study is responsible for implementing procedures for all personnel.

For research conducted off-campus, Human Subjects Research that cannot be conducted virtually or as on-campus research under a COVID-19 Research space SOP (such as field research), must continue to align with the procedures in the area and any Protect Purdue guidance. Updated permission letters or e-mails from participating research sites (e.g. businesses, schools) may be necessary to document the site's agreement and capacity requirements.

Purdue HRPP continues to allow changes to a previously approved IRB protocol without the submission of an amendment, consistent with Purdue HRPP Standard Operating Procedure 305:

- Substitution of telephone, web conferencing, and secure electronic communication (examples include use of Box, WebEx, Qualtrics, DocuSign) to conduct data collection typically done in-person. These methods may be added when possible and practical for mitigating research risks to subjects or others related to COVID-19. If there are questions about any changes to participant risk, please contact the HRPP/IRB Office (765-494-5942 or irb@purdue.edu).
- Researchers are permitted to implement the use of screening questions without modification to an IRB protocol to pre-screen for risk of exposure or spread of COVID-19. This may include:
    - Questions in verbal or written/electronic form used to confirm that a participant is not at increased risk for complications from COVID-19 by participation in the study;
    - Questions in verbal or written/electronic form to determine if a participant is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., temperature, cough) prior to an in-person research visit or information about their possible exposures and travel. This includes measures and forms necessary to comply with the Guidance for Research-Related Visitors to On-Campus Buildings or Facilities or Guidance for Enhanced PPE for Close-up, Person-to-Person Interactions in Research (both available here);
    - Outreach to a participant to notify them of the timing, scheduling, and any requirements of their visit or to answer questions about a study prior to the visit.

If the scope of a research activity changes because Purdue travel to a research site is no longer possible, the HRPP/IRB must know the details of the updated project, including the methods used for human subjects research protections (examples are proper training, voluntary participation, informed consent, and oversight of the work.) We remind investigators that HRPP/IRB approval and exemption are only one component of the changes that may need to occur to the overall project. Considerations related to

personnel payment, effort reporting, financial responsibilities, and funding are mostly outside of the scope of the HRPP/IRB, but may also need to change when restructuring a research project.

As always, please reach out to the HRPP with specific questions. Thank you for your continued care and diligence in protecting research participants.