

RETURN TO IN-PERSON HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH

Updated June 7, 2021

In accordance with the May 28th, 2021 memo from David Trainor, VP of Human Resources, all capacity limitations on campus classrooms, workspaces, and outdoor areas have been rescinded. The mask mandate has also been rescinded for those who are fully vaccinated. Therefore, all human subjects research, including research taking place in labs on campus, may resume. Please note the following requirements from the Boston College Office for Research Protections:

For all protocols approved before the COVID-19 pandemic (prior to March 2020):

Protocols approved prior to March 2020 that involved in-person data collection, but had to switch to remote data collection due to the pandemic, may use either or both previously approved procedures (in person or remote) without further communication with the IRB, as long as those procedures resume exactly as approved. However, if there are any changes in approved procedures, such as adjustments that need to be made due to site requirements (other than masking and sanitization procedures), the PI must submit an amendment to the IRB.

For all protocols approved during the pandemic, after March 2020:

Many protocols were approved with exclusively remote data collection during the pandemic. If PIs would like to conduct in-person data collection for these studies, they must submit an amendment to the IRB before doing so.

Reminders for all PIs:

When returning to off-campus sites for data collection, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are following all requirements of the specific site regarding PPE, social distancing, and vaccination. Additionally, we strongly recommend that all PIs keep clear records of which approved procedure (in-person or remote) are used with each participant.

Please feel free to contact irb@bc.edu with any questions.