

APPENDIX D

REB Review During COVID-19 Pandemic

The Dalhousie Research Ethics Boards are invoking Dal REB SOP501.01 - REB Review During Publicly Declared Emergencies.

The following applies to human participant research studies that have received REB approval through the Dalhousie HSREB or SSHREB. Dalhousie researchers whose studies have received REB approval through the NSHA or IWK must follow directives provided by those institutional REBs.

Ongoing Research

- Ongoing research activities not involving, or no longer involving, contact with participants may continue, if the activities are conducted off-campus and/or online.
- Research activities involving contact with participants may only continue uninterrupted if interrupting such activity might pose significant risks to participant safety or the research is critical research related to the COVID-19 emergency. Otherwise, **researchers must suspend such activities and conduct a risk assessment/review of their research protocols**. Researchers may resume their research activities only if they have ensured their protocols comply with public health advice ([Nova Scotia Public Health](#) and [Public Health Canada](#)) and [Dalhousie University advisories](#) regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19 and the research is conducted off campus and/or online.
- If *significant* modifications to protocols are required to ensure compliance with the advice above, an amendment request to the REB must be made. *Minor* modifications may be documented in an annual/final report. If protocols cannot be modified to comply with public health advice and Dalhousie University advisories, research activities involving contact with participants must be suspended until the emergency is ended.
- REB review of annual/final reports and amendments unrelated to the emergency will continue but may be delayed as research related to the emergency will be prioritized.

New Research

- New research related to or arising from the emergency that is time sensitive will be given priority for review. Review of new research not related to the emergency will continue but may be delayed as research related to (or impacted by) the emergency will be prioritized.
- During the pandemic, both categories of research must comply with public health advice ([Nova Scotia Public Health](#) and [Public Health Canada](#)) and [Dalhousie University advisories](#) regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Researchers are reminded to consult with their academic units, research partners, stakeholders and sponsors regarding potential disruptions to their research arising from their particular research settings.