



Important Announcement, effective March 16, 2020 (last updated August 3, 2020)

Dear Colleagues:

We have been actively monitoring the quickly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and are taking multiple steps to minimize its impact.

As of March 16th, Dr. Avrom Caplan, the Institutional Official at Pace University, determined that most research activities involving in-person interactions **must be paused**. This pause in research activities has been extended **until further notice** -- **unless** canceling or postponing the interaction increases the risk to a research participant's safety or well-being.

The following information expands upon the implementation of this announcement:

- 1) Ongoing Research with Enrolled Subjects:** Most research activities involving in-person, face-to-face interactions **must be paused until further notice** -- **unless** canceling or postponing the interaction would increase the risk to the research participant's safety or well-being by:
 - A). Depriving them of a potential direct benefit and the interaction is required to deliver that potential direct benefit (such as an investigational drug, device or surgical intervention that is not available via standard of care); or by
 - B). Preventing the collection of safety data (such as a follow-up visit that the Principal Investigator deems is necessary to detect or monitor potential adverse events).
- 2) New Enrollment into Existing Studies:** Most research activities involving in-person, face-to-face interactions must **pause enrollment until further notice** -- **unless** doing so would deprive the research participant of a potential direct benefit (as noted above at 1.A).
- 3) Pending IRB applications for Human Subjects Research:** The IRB will continue to review and approve submissions. For studies that are approvable, but do not meet the exception (noted above at 1.A) allowing new enrollment, the IRB will approve the study and explicitly note that enrollment may not start until the pause in research activities is lifted.

There are no restrictions at this time for ongoing research involving on-line or remote face-to-face interactions. Research-related activities, including pre-screening, recruitment and enrollment activities, that do not involve in-person, face-to-face interactions with research participants may continue.

Please see the 'Frequently Asked Questions' information and then if you have further questions, we encourage you to reach out to us by emailing Susan DeMocker, Associate Director of Research Protections, at sdemocker@pace.edu.