1. Can research with Indigenous peoples and/or communities continue?
   ∧ Researchers working with Indigenous peoples and/or communities should stop research/data gathering and determine when work may continue only after you have consulted with the community in question. It is best practice to consult with the communities to determine whether they wish for you to continue with the research collaboration.

2. Can GREB Researchers still conduct their work if it involves in-person methodology?
   ∧ Given the public health emergency related to COVID-19 we are requesting that researchers proposing in-person contact and/or in-person research with communities do not initiate in-person data collection until this public health emergency is over. Modifications should be made to eliminate in-person (e.g., conduct interviews, focus groups remotely, on-line surveys, etc.) if possible.
   ∧ If the research study is providing an essential treatment option that is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the participant(s) a request for exemption will be required. Exemption requests need to be vetted by Jennifer Couture, Manager, Research Ethics Compliance, (Jennifer.couture@queensu.ca) to bring forward to the appropriate REB Chair for consideration.
   ∧ New ethics applications that do propose in-person contact will only be granted a conditional ethics clearance by GREB. Conditional ethics clearance means your study has received ethics clearance but you do not have permission to start in-person data collection until COVID-19 research restrictions are removed and you receive an updated ethics clearance letter. Other aspects of the research not involving in-person contact may start once conditional clearance is issued (e.g., secondary data review, remote survey).
   ∧ Amendments to ongoing research studies should clearly outline all strategies being implemented to eliminate face-to-face interactions (i.e., virtually or through other means).
   --- Please see “What do I need to do if I need to change my current procedures/protocol due to COVID-19?” below for additional guidance.

As greater clarification on risks of COVID-19 spread and risk of infection is provided by Queen’s University and our Public Health partners, these restrictions will be re-assessed. Please visit https://www.queensu.ca/vpr/covid-19 for the most up to date information on the COVID-19 Outbreak and its Impact on Queen's University Research.

Some Considerations where face-to-face interactions are deemed absolutely necessary:
   a) Are any modifications to the protocol necessary to aide in social distancing? If yes, what steps can be taken to minimize risks to participants, researchers, research staff, trainees and the institution (e.g., telephone, virtual technology, mail).
   b) If meeting with participants or other researchers in-person are necessary, they should be contacted ahead of time to ensure that they are not showing any clinical symptoms of COVID-19. If they are, the appointment should be re-scheduled when signs have resolved.

3. Can GREB Researchers still bring participants to Queen’s University Campus?
   ∧ All research that requires in-person contact with participants should be eliminated.
   --- If the research study is providing an essential treatment option that is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the participant(s), a request for exemption will be required.
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Exemption requests need to be vetted to Jennifer Couture (jennifer.couture@queensu.ca) to bring forward to the appropriate REB Chair for consideration.

4. What do I need to do if I would like to start a new study related to COVID-19 and I need to get my ethics review expedited?
   - Complete and submit the appropriate ethics application form in TRAQ (FAQ re: registering in TRAQ posted on GREB’s website). Ensure you have reviewed the GREB LOI/CF Checklist (posted on GREB’s website).
   - Once the application has been submitted through the TRAQ website, forward the notification of submission from TRAQ via email to jennifer.couture@queensu.ca.

5. What do I need to do if I need to change my current procedures/protocol due to COVID-19?
   - Any changes should be implemented to eliminate immediate hazards to participants prior to review by GREB. If any changes are implemented, submit for GREB review as soon as possible.
   - Submit this information using the GREB Amendment Event Form in TRAQ.

6. Am I able to remove my research files from my office and store them in a secure location in my home due to COVID-19? I may have participants contact me and I may need this information to answer questions.
   - If you plan to store any research files at home they must be de-identified as outlined in the ethics application. Keep in mind the following:
     - Take all reasonable precautions to protect privacy. Protecting privacy should be a priority (e.g., secure storage in a separate room that can be locked, locking files in the trunk of a car during transport rather than the backseat where they are visible).
     - Files should only be kept off-site for as long as necessary.
     - Document in a log all study-related documents that are leaving the main site, which includes what research files were taken off-site, participant ID# of files taken, date of removal of research files, date of return of research files, and who took the files (study staff ID).
     - Submit an Amendment Event Form to GREB outlining the new storage procedures and location.

7. Is the recruitment of participants to complete on-line surveys still permissible?
   - Yes, recruitment to on-line surveys is still permissible for GREB research. All in-person contact for research purposes should be eliminated. Please view “Some Considerations” above for more information.

8. Should I be conducting follow up visits with my research participants?
   - Follow up should continue only as it relates to the best interest of the participant(s).
   - In-person contact should be eliminated. If any visits can be done virtually or by telephone an amendment form should be updated to outline this change to the appropriate REB. Review “What do I need to do if I need to change my current procedures/protocol due to COVID-19?” above for additional guidance.