Dear Research Community,

The University has approved the resumption of certain in-person human subjects research projects. In this Phase 1 resumption, research that will be considered for approval must meet the following criteria:

1. Be led by a faculty Principle Investigator (PI); and
2. Be able to be conducted while maintaining social distancing as per the current University guidelines.

The return to in-person humans subjects research application process for Phase 1 includes the following steps:

1. Submission of a study modification to the IRB which addresses any procedural changes pertinent to COVID-related health protections such as scheduling of participants, changes in study locations, etc. Guidance on health protections to be implemented can be found in the Supplemental Guidance for the Return to In-Person Research with Human Study Subjects; and
2. Submission of a Return to Human Subjects Research Request Form (R2R HS), to be reviewed and approved by the IRB, including confirmation that the associated protocol(s) have been modified appropriately to ensure study participant safety.
3. For studies being conducted in a lab space, submission and approval of an Application to Return to Research at Binghamton must also be submitted.

**Note that all study procedures which can be conducted online (such as interviews and focus groups via Zoom) are expected to continue as such and will not be approved for in-person procedures unless an appropriate justification is provided. Additionally, if a study proposed to be conducted in a lab (in person) can be converted to an online study, a justification for not doing so will be required.**

Prior to completing and submitting the Return to In-Person Research with Human Subjects Request Form, PIs should contact the IRB to discuss and submit necessary modifications to their IRB protocol(s). PIs will be provided a Participant COVID Risk Sheet to be distributed to all study participants.

PIs must obtain approval from the IRB before submitting the R2R HS request form. The IRB office can be reached at hsrc@binghamton.edu.

The R2R HS Request Form, University Guidelines, and Supplemental HS Guidance can be found at https://www.binghamton.edu/research/vp/returntoresearch.html

Best,

Linda Reynolds

IRB Associate Director