



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

COVID-19 Research Guidelines

While Tyndale University fully supports research endeavours, the Provost Office wishes to draw your attention to the fact that we will not require any in-person research with human participants at this time of COVID-19 outbreak. If you do wish to carry out in-person research with human participants, you will need to pay attention to the following guidelines.

- You should always follow the provincial healthcare guidelines and any protocols in place at the location of your field research.
- If you feel unwell, care should be taken to stay at home to prevent transmission of any illness.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 you are not required to disclose this to anyone at Tyndale. The Public Health Authority (PHA) will notify Tyndale (if you have been on campus) or your research site and participants within 14 days of receiving the result. The PHA will not tell Tyndale your name to protect your privacy.
- The Research Ethics Board (REB) recommends that, wherever possible, you modify your research protocols in order to limit personal contacts and accommodate physical distancing. In-person participant interactions (e.g. interviews and focus groups) should be replaced, wherever possible, with telephone or online communication. You will need to consider the type of participants engaged in the research, and any additional risk that may arise by switching from in-person to virtual communication. Please remember that making these changes to your data collection may also require you to revise participant consent forms.

Finally, any major amendments to your research requires REB approval and you will need to resubmit your revised proposal for consideration to the REB. Simply shifting the mode of participant contact from in-person to virtual communication, though, does not constitute a major amendment as long as the other parameters of the interaction remain unchanged. In particular, if you want to record virtual interactions with participants, that will require REB approval if you were not already approved to make recordings of the equivalent in-person interactions. If you are currently engaged in research and do not have time to wait for the REB approval before making modifications to keep your participants safe, researchers should prioritize safety and go ahead with modified interactions while awaiting a response from the REB. If you are at all concerned about your ability to carry out your research, please contact your research supervisor. Tyndale is committed to supporting you to complete your research.