**Student Research During COVID-19 Restrictions**

As long as Canada has measures in place for physical/social l distancing and staying at home, all forms of data gathering for research and projects that involve physical/social interaction such as focus groups and face-to-face interviews and other forms of in-person research should not proceed. Rather, student researchers should use other data gathering methods such as telephone, on-line surveys, and email, among others. In rare cases an exemption may be considered. Please see the form below

**1)   If you have an approved ethical review request already in** **place** that involves in-person research with research participants, you must not proceed with those data gathering methods. Rather, contact your supervisor, discuss an alternative method such as on-line surveys, email or telephone interviews. Send your supervisor the agreed upon change for approval and to submit to the [ethics office](mailto:%20ethicalreview@royalroads.ca). You will not be required to complete a new ethical review.

**2)   If you are currently preparing an ethical review request** for submission and you originally planned in-person research/project data gathering methods, you will also need to change those to an alternative method such as on-line surveys, or email or telephone interviews. Your supervisor will need to approve your request for ethics review document and send it the [ethics office](mailto:%20ethicalreview@royalroads.ca). Once Canada lifts these measures, researchers who have not started their data gathering can, with the approval of their supervisor, propose in-person methods.  Send your supervisor the agreed upon change for approval and to submit to the [ethics office](mailto:%20ethicalreview@royalroads.ca). You will not be required to complete a new ethical review.

**3)   If you have already started your research/project** and have been using in-person methods, do not continue. Rather, contact your supervisor, discuss continuing with an alternative method such as on-line surveys, or email or telephone interviews.  Send your supervisor the agreed upon change for approval and to submit to the [ethics office](mailto:%20ethicalreview@royalroads.ca). You will not be required to complete a new ethical review.

**4)   If you do not need to start your data gathering right away** and want to do in-person methods, consider delaying your ethical review request until the measures are lifted and then proceed as usual.

Questions can be addressed to the Office of Research Ethics at [ethicalreview@royalroads.ca](mailto:ethicalreview@royalroads.ca).

In exceptional circumstances you can request for an exemption. Please consult with your supervisor and submit the completed form -- **Student Research During COVID-19 Restrictions Request for Exemption Form** to your Dean for approval and submission to the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost on behalf of the university.