**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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

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.