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**[HHS Staff] Research-related updates in light of COVID**

1 message

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**Esther Leerkes** <emleerke@uncg.edu>  
Reply-To: emleerke@uncg.edu  
To: hhs-faculty-l@uncg.edu, hhs-staff-l@uncg.edu

Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 12:00 PM

Dear Colleagues,

There was an update regarding risk mitigation plans for research in [Campus Weekly](#) today that I want to bring to your attention. For your convenience, I have pasted the text below. All individuals with active risk mitigation plans should have received an email from Kim Littlefield last week; if you did not, please let me know.

In short, mitigation plans are not longer required, we are urged to be cautious, avoid inessential in person contact, and follow CDC and UNCG guidelines. If you wish to discuss precautions related to your own research, I am happy to meet with you.

Please remember to visit [KeepResearching.uncg.edu](#) for the most current guidance.

Best,

Esther

**Copied text:**

As part of ongoing efforts to support safe research, scholarship, and creative activity during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Research and Engagement is announcing the following updates to our guidelines.

As you continue your work, remember it is important to remain vigilant about preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and adhere to [University guidelines](#), including the [COVID-19 reporting protocols](#). The best protection is to combine vaccination with masking and distancing.

- Researchers may now proceed with projects **without submitting or revising Risk Mitigation Plans** through InfoReady Review. Though we no longer require you to submit a plan, we ask you to **continue to use all of the risk reduction tools and best practices you have developed**, as long as they remain relevant, and **be vigilant**.
- Our office suggests that **if research, scholarship, or creative activities can be delayed or conducted virtually** without compromising student progress to degrees or the integrity of a project, you should do so, especially during the current surge.
- If your research requires in-person interactions, follow the [CDC recommendations for masking](#), with regards to fit and composition. The University recommends the use of **surgical or 3-ply masks**; cloth masks are not recommended.
- If you are **bringing research subjects to campus, limit the size of the group and time of interaction** to the minimum needed to collect data and **physically distance** when possible. All research subjects should wear **masks** when on campus. We recommend incorporating risk mitigation strategies into your IRB applications.
- We are here to assist: If you have questions about how to mitigate risk during your activities please reach out to Dr. Kim Littlefield at [kpittle@uncg.edu](mailto:kpittle@uncg.edu).
- There are **no restrictions on US/domestic travel**. However **international travel must be approved** through the [IPC travel process](#).

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly shifting situation. If the requirement for protocol approvals is reinstated, our office will alert you and update [KeepResearching.uncg.edu](#).

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Esther M. Leerkes, Ph.D. (she/her/hers: [What's this?](#))  
Associate Dean for Research, School of Health and Human Sciences  
Jefferson Pilot Excellence Professor, Human Development & Family Studies  
UNC Greensboro  
PO Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170  
Phone: (336) 256-0310



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