

IBC FAQs COVID-19

Will the Research Protections Office (RPO) continue to operate as usual?

The RPO and its Committees are operating through modified procedures. RPO staff are working remotely and are conducting regularly scheduled and ad hoc meetings via online conferencing. On-site educational programs have been cancelled until further notice.

The IBC approved my new registration and/or amendment, does that mean I can begin or continue my work?

The IBC continues to conduct reviews and approvals. However, only research that has been deemed essential by the Vice President for Research may continue work in the laboratories. At this time, laboratory activities related to COVID-19 research are the only laboratories that are allowed to be active. This is in accordance with Governor Phil Scott's Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order which directed the closure of in-person operations for all non-essential business. This directive went into effect on March 25, 2020.

What will happen if my registration is near expiration during the ramp down in research operations?

The IBC will continue to review and approve continuing reviews remotely. Consequently, PIs and research teams must continue to submit their continuing review update through UVMClick. Reminders are sent, every 30 days beginning at 90 days, so a registration should not lapse during this time.

Who do I contact with compliance questions?

RPO and the IBC will continue to provide services remotely. Should you have any questions, please contact [Aubrie Clas](#), [Melanie Locher](#), or [Abbey Dattilio](#) via email. They use Microsoft Teams to do virtual face-to-face meetings when needed.

Where do I find information about laboratory safety during the hibernation in laboratory activities?

The Department of Risk Management has developed a webpage to provide laboratory personnel information about what to do when ramping down activities in the laboratory. There are suggestions for steps prior to a shutdown being declared, FAQs (frequently asked questions), and resources to ensure the laboratory is safely, temporarily shut down. This page can be accessed by following this link <https://www.uvm.edu/riskmanagement/covid-19-laboratory-information>.

I am planning to work with COVID-19/SARS-COV-2 associated materials what do I need to do?

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic that is impacting public health worldwide, the "call" has gone out to the scientific research community to develop screening tests and therapeutics, as well as studies to better understand the virus itself.

If you are planning to work with COVID-19 clinical specimens or SARS-CoV-2 associated materials, it is important to obtain Vice President of Research approval, have a risk assessment completed and an IBC registration approved prior to accepting any of these materials in the laboratory.