

As at July 2021

Research Restart for Step 3 of the Provincial Roadmap to Reopen: A Face-to-Face Human Participant Research Framework

As of 12:01 am July 16, the Province of Ontario entered into [Step 3](#) of the Province's current Pandemic Response plan, the "[Roadmap to ReOpen](#)." The purpose of this document is to provide information to the research community on what face-to-face/in-person human participant research can be authorized under the current "Step"¹, subject to appropriate risk-mitigation strategies.²

Researchers are advised that:

- **Campus access approval does not constitute approval to proceed with in-person research and neither does previous ethics approval alone. Additional institutional approval/permissions must also be obtained prior to the commencement of any research activity and in particular, those that are to be undertaken on campus. Please see the attached "[How to restart in person research](#)" for procedures.**
- **Regardless of the "Step," general health, and safety precautions around COVID-19 advise that 2-metre physical distancing and masks or face coverings are required at all times indoors and outdoors if physical distancing cannot be maintained, until otherwise advised. Please consult the [Better Together](#) website for the most up-to-date information.**
- **They are expected to create the conditions to reduce or cease activities on short notice, in case COVID-19 conditions change.**
- **Shifts between Steps may require Health and Safety plans to be reevaluated and approved, prior to the commencement of any research activities.**

Please note: Research involving vulnerable populations or groups who may be at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 (compared to the general population) remains restricted at this time.

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¹ "Step" refers to the Three Steps of Public Health Measures as defined/outlined in the Province of Ontario's "COVID-19 Response Framework" at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open>

² These guidelines are created with the safety of students, staff, faculty, and other members of the community as the number one priority and are guided by Toronto Public Health and Ontario's COVID 19 Response framework.

<p>“3 Step” – Roadmap to Re-open, Ontario COVID-19 Response Framework Level (as of May 2021)</p>	<p>Permitted Research – In Ontario</p>	<p>Permitted Research – Inter/intra Provincial and Global</p>
<p>Step 3: 70-80% adults in the province of Ontario with one dose; 25% fully vaccinated; permit the resumption of some indoor services and activities with larger numbers of people, and with restrictions in place.</p>	<p>Most in-person research with human participants with approved ethics and health & safety plans may resume including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies permitted indoors with increased risks and sustained close contact (e.g., heavy breathing, gas inhalation, ultrasound, TMS, EEG, EMG, eye examinations, intermittent face covering removal by participants), approved safety plans with occupancy limits, and research ethics board clearance. • PPE* requirements dependent on and in line with approved Health and Safety Plan AND a Risk Assessment • Additional appropriate PPE <i>may be</i> required for ALL in-person human research where distancing of >2 metres not possible. <p>Types of Research Activities: in-person research involving high intervention with human participants can be authorized, subject to appropriate risk mitigation strategies. Some higher intervention activities may be possible depending upon a broader assessment of other activities occurring at the same time. This may include studies where aerosol generation or contact with respiratory droplets is anticipated and it may be authorized, subject to appropriate risk mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Participant pool: subject to applicable physical distancing requirements, extended to York and non-York members. While participant recruitment may involve members from the community at large, they are however restricted subject to local public health situations in Ontario equal to or below that of the City of Toronto.</p>	<p>Inter-provincial (Ontario): most field research in local sites subject to site permissions, location-specific regulations, and public health guidance. Permission granted on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Intra-Provincial: field research will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; local site permissions, location-specific regulations, and public health guidance.</p> <p>Global: field research at international sites shall be reviewed and approved subject to COVID-19 case statistics, site permissions, location-specific regulations.</p>

* PPE = Personal protective equipment, which may include, but is not limited to, a medical-grade mask, eye protection (safety goggles or face shield), a gown, and gloves, as outlined in the approved safety plan.** VPR/AVP approval required for exceptions. Additional safety measures may be required and would be approved by the Health and Safety Officer.

Researchers are advised that should the Province revert back to a previous reopening “Step,” that the following restrictions will under Step 2 or 1 respectively:

<p>“3 Step” – Roadmap to Re-open, Ontario COVID-19 Response Framework Level (as of May 2021)</p>	<p>Permitted Research – In Ontario</p>	<p>Permitted Research – Inter/intra Provincial and Global</p>
<p>Step 2: 70% adults in the province of Ontario with one dose; 20% fully vaccinated; expand outdoor activities and will resume limited indoor services with a small number of people, where face coverings are worn and other restrictions in place.</p>	<p>Some in-person research with human participants permitted with approved ethics and health & safety plans. *Student degree progression and COVID-related research will be prioritized.</p> <p>Research resumption predicated on local assessment to reduce in-person presence and the ability of the research team to maintain appropriate distancing most of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies permitted indoors where <2 meters distance not possible, intermittent periods of close contact, (<15 minutes of cumulative close contact within 2 meters in 24 hours) and no other risks or involvement of vulnerable populations. • Approved safety plan with occupancy limits, and research ethics board clearance; • Collection of some human samples, if permitted under approved health and safety plans; • PPE* is always worn; • Appropriate additional PPE must be used for researchers involving periods of brief contact (less than 15 minutes cumulative close contact within 2 meters) <p>Types of research activities: in-person research involving interaction, observation, or moderate intervention with human participants can be authorized, subject to appropriate risk mitigation strategies. Some higher intervention activities may be possible depending upon a broader assessment of the other activities occurring at the same time.</p> <p>Participant pool: limited to York Community members. Efforts will be made to recruit participants from the campus community, outside of the immediate study team, where at all possible. Expansion to other</p>	<p>Inter-Provincial (Ontario): limited/some field research in local sites subject to site permissions, location-specific regulations, and public health guidance</p> <p>Intra-Provincial: field research will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; local site permissions, location-specific regulations, and public health guidance.</p> <p>Global: field research at international sites shall be reviewed and approved subject to COVID-19 case statistics, site permissions, location-specific regulations.</p>

	<p>groups will not extend beyond those already on campus unless with expressed College/departmental approval</p> <p>Requests for exemptions from restrictions: on face-to-face research (such as for essential and/or COVID related research) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by VPRI and a relevant Dean.</p>	
<p>Step 1: 60% adults in the province of Ontario with one dose; permit the resumption of outdoor activities with smaller, well-managed crowds, where risk of transmission is minimized.</p>	<p>Restricted/limited in-person research with human participants is permitted with approved ethics and health & safety plans in place. *Student degree progression and COVID-related research will be prioritized.</p> <p>Research resumption predicated on local assessment to reduce in-person presence and the ability of the research team to maintain appropriate distancing all of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies permitted outdoors; physical distancing required; • Studies permitted indoors where >2 meters distance is always possible AND location meets health and safety standards (ventilation etc); • PPE is required at all times. <p>Types of Research Activities: in addition to virtual/remote research, in-person research involving interaction, observation, or minimal intervention with human participants can be authorized, subject to appropriate risk mitigation strategies. Approval is granted on case-by-case basis; priority given to COVID related research and or student degree progression.</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No research involving collection of human samples (fluids, tissues, breath) is permitted. • Participant pool strictly limited to approved York community members only. External participants not permitted 	<p>Inter-Provincial (Ontario): restricted field research in local sites subject to site permissions, location-specific regulations, and public health guidance. Permission granted on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Intra-provincial: field research will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; local site permissions, location-specific regulations, and public health guidance.</p> <p>Global: field research at international sites shall be reviewed and approved subject to COVID-19 case statistics, site permissions, location-specific regulations, public health guidance, and Global Affairs travel advisories.</p>

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