

Dear TTUHSC El Paso Community,

This is to update you on our university's **human subject research continuity plans** in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Please continue to monitor the TTUHSC El Paso COVID-19 site for guidance on health concerns and their impact on university operations, including research: <https://ttuhscep.edu/coronavirus/secure/default.aspx>. In addition, ongoing guidance will be provided on the university's main research page: <https://elpaso.ttuhs.edu/research/>.

Phase III on-campus research activities should be only the minimum needed to advance projects and will need to be conducted with a high degree of caution to prevent exposure to COVID. Study visits, including subject interviewing and consenting, should be conducted remotely, when possible.

For studies that require in-person procedures and assessments, an incremental strategy should be adopted by each research team to keep human density and contact at a minimum. Human subject studies should enroll subjects and conduct in-person study visits only with prior approval of the IRB. For these requests, the justification will need to be submitted through an amendment in iRIS, include confirmation that a customized plan has been approved by the Department Chair, and that all indicated guidelines will be followed. If there are any questions or concerns related to research activities at TTUHSC El Paso, please feel free to contact Myrna Arvizo at [myrna.arvizo@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:myrna.arvizo@ttuhsc.edu) or (915) 215-4162.

Effective 6/11/2020 all Research Compliance and IRB approved research activities may resume at UMC EP. Non-clinical research personnel will be allowed to enter UMC EP in order to assist with study activities provided they observe all hospital mandated precautions in place and wear their hospital issued badge hanger that identifies them as cleared research personnel. Hospital precautions include screening at hospital entrance, wearing of masks and observing social distancing. If there are any questions or concerns related to research activities at UMC, please feel free to contact:

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Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time.