

Standards and Protocols for Wesleyan Division III Research with Human Participants¹

The following outlines requirements specific to conducting Research with Human Participants (RHPs). As Wesleyan has now entered a phase of the pandemic with reduced restrictions and updated guidelines for precautionary measures to keep our community safe and healthy, the Standards and Protocols for RHPs have been updated to reflect this progress:

- At present, guidelines for in-person research with human participants will principally mirror those guidelines of in-person classroom teaching (e.g., wear face coverings, provide ventilation or air-purification as appropriate).
- Faculty and student researchers will adhere to University vaccination and testing requirements.
- Vaccinated visitors outside of the Wesleyan Community are allowed on campus to participate in research on the condition that they must adhere and follow the [COVID Safety Guidelines](#).
- For human participant research involving students where students receive course credit for their participation, an alternative non-in-person research experience option must be made available (e.g., on-line study or survey, or a review of a research paper).
- Faculty (and student) researchers are encouraged to follow their own comfort levels for any reasonable precautions that might be taken beyond those consistent with in-person classroom teaching.
- Faculty researchers are reminded that they may contact William Nelligen to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), to inquire about adequate ventilation and room capacities in laboratories, or for any other advice or support for safety questions.

In the event of resurgence, below are guidelines that outline a “stepped approach” for restrictions to be enacted for purposes of safety and the health of our community. The RHP will follow any additional recommendations or restrictions set forth by the Pandemic Response Team, any University Regulations as well as any regulations set forth by the State of Connecticut and/or the Federal Government, as communicated to us by the Pandemic Response Team.

¹ Developed by the Division III task force for Research with Human Participants (Charles Sanislow [Chair], Kyungmi Kim, and Jennifer Rose) in consultation with Dr. Thomas McLarney, William Nelligan, Brandi Hood, Steven Formica, Roseann Sillasen, Youssef Ezzyat, and Janice Naegele.

Specifically, for the semesters FA21 and SP22, RHP guidelines and regulations will follow the same safety precautions as those for in-person classroom teaching. At any point, if in-person class meetings are suspended University-wide by the Pandemic Response Team, all RHP will cease in conjunction with that change. If there are intermediate precautionary measures introduced by the Pandemic Response Team, the Spring 2021 Protocol for RHP will be reactivated under advisement from the Pandemic Response Team. (For purposes of reference, the archived Spring 2021 RHP Protocol is included in this document.) *This document will be maintained on the IRB website and updated if there are any changes in the status of RHP introduced.*

Archived Spring 2021 RHP Protocol

These guidelines extend the more general Division III guidelines originally detailed in the *Wesleyan COVID-19 Research Faculty Training* (updated May 22, 2020), as well as any future Division III guidelines developed for COVID-19 Research Faculty Training.

1. Laboratories may convert to on-line or remote research for studies with human participants, provided the appropriate [Wesleyan Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#) protocol is followed.
2. If the student researcher/research assistant/post-doc/faculty member (hereafter, “researcher”) is conducting the participant research from a remote location, i.e., not in a laboratory, general university precautions should be adhered to.
3. In cases where the researcher is conducting the remote research from their university laboratory or office, all guidelines in the general *Wesleyan COVID-19 Research Faculty Training* must be met and adhered to, in addition to general university precautions.
4. For all research (in-person or remote) conducted from a laboratory location, faculty members for the laboratory will:
 - a. Complete the on-line [Undergraduate Student Supervised Research Form](#) for all laboratory members who plan to utilize the laboratory space in line with the capacity requirements of the laboratory;
 - b. Determine the capacity and distancing guidelines for their laboratory space in consultation with William Nelligan;
 - c. Inform all laboratory members (e.g., student researchers, research assistants, post-docs, and collaborating faculty members) of these guidelines;
 - d. Post these guidelines clearly in appropriate and visible areas of their laboratory;
 - e. Mark off social-distancing parameters as appropriate;

- f. Request and maintain stock of appropriate PPE, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, touchless thermometer (from William Nelligan).
5. For in-person research where both the researcher and research participant are present in the laboratory space, laboratory (and building) capacity limits will be followed, appropriate social-distancing will be maintained, face coverings will be used, and appropriate [Wesleyan IRB](#) protocol will be followed.
6. Examples of appropriate precautions to be followed for in-person human participant research include:
 - a. Consenting and debriefing the participant from an appropriate social-distance using face coverings;
 - b. Having a pre-sanitized pen for the participant to sign the consent form;
 - c. Covering common use keyboards with plastic wrap replacing prior to each participant use (treating button boxes with disinfectant prior to and after each participant use);
 - d. Establishing and following a disinfecting protocol for desk surfaces, door knobs, and any arms of chairs before and after each participant;
 - e. Using a testing room to separate the participant and the researcher, or using a plexiglass divider;
 - f. Contacting the participant one day prior to the study for a brief screen of symptoms;
 - g. Testing the participant with a touchless thermometer for a temperature within normal limits when they arrive for the study;
 - h. Ventilating laboratory space between study sessions and scheduling 30 minutes between research participants;
 - i. Scheduling in-person human participant research in Judd Hall outside of regular classroom meeting times plus 30 minutes before and after the meeting times (as indicated in the appendix) to comply with building occupancy limitations;
 - j. Retaining a log of participant time/dates and contact information separate from data for back-up contact tracing.
7. In addition to the general Division III requirements and these requirements for Human Participant Research, all in-person human participant research will adhere to the broader University Guidelines; for example:
 - a. During times that visitors are not permitted on campus, research may be conducted only with Wesleyan Students, Staff, or Faculty.
 - b. In-person research will only be allowable on days when the university permits in-person class meetings. If in-person classes are suspended due to elevated risk for COVID-19, in-person research will also be suspended.

- c. Only those research participants adhering to the campus COVID-19 requirements (including twice weekly testing) and who are not quarantined are eligible to participate.
 - d. All researchers conducting in-person research must adhere to the campus COVID-19 requirements, including twice weekly testing for student researchers.
8. For research where social-distancing is not possible, including research that involves physical contact (e.g., research involving EEG), a protocol that includes extra-precautions (e.g., face-covering of researcher to include both masking and wearing a clear plastic shield, time-limited contact) will be developed and reviewed by Dr. Thomas McLarney to ensure that it meets acceptable University and State of Connecticut public health standards.
 9. No Wesleyan student who is participating in research for course credit shall be required to participate in studies that are conducted in person, i.e., for studies where students are earning course credit, and will be provided with remote on-line alternatives.

Appendix

Judd Hall Classroom Meeting Times and Allowable Time Periods for RHP During Periods of Elevated Risk

Current Status: No restricted time for scheduling RHP in Judd Hall.

Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 times for allowable research TBD in consultation with the Registrar's Office if any restrictions in classroom teaching are introduced, e.g., reduction in numbers of students or numbers of class meetings, per consultation with the pandemic response team.

Archival Judd Hall Classroom Meeting Times and Allowable Time Periods for RHP During Periods of Elevated Risk

Spring 2021

Mondays / Wednesdays:

8:20AM – 9:10AM

1:00PM – 2:20PM

Human Participant Research between 9:40AM and 12:30PM, or after 2:50PM only

Tuesdays / Thursdays:

11:10AM – 12:30PM

1:00PM – 2:20PM

2:50PM – 4:10PM

Human Participant Research concluding before 10:40AM, or beginning after 4:40PM only

Fridays:

8:20AM – 9:10AM

Human Participant Research beginning after 9:40AM only

Fall 2020

Mondays / Wednesdays:

8:00AM – 9:20AM

1:00PM – 2:20PM

2:50PM – 4:10PM

Human Participant Research after 4:40PM only

Tuesdays / Thursdays:

8:20AM – 1:00PM

Human Participant Research after 1:30PM only

Fridays:

No Classes

Human Participant Research not restricted by class meetings.