

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has issued the following guidance for IRB approved studies that need to move online for data collection. This information is also applicable to new online research studies that are being submitted for IRB review.

No Change to Study Procedures: IRB Approval Limited to Administrative Review

PI's may move studies online after administrative review if there is no change to the study procedures (e.g., no change in compensation) other than the electronic administration of study procedures (i.e., same surveys; same experimental manipulation) and the method of recruitment (i.e., online as opposed to in person).

To ensure that data collection remains anonymous for anonymous studies, make sure to set up the survey so that it does not collect IP addresses. In addition, please add the following REQUIRED language into the confidentiality section of the consent form (and fill in the appropriate information where indicated):

The data are being collected via the online platform <specify>. To address any concerns you may have about the confidentiality of data collected in this manner, please see <specify the company's> Data Privacy Policy at <include the URL here>. You should specifically look at the section entitled, <direct participants to the relevant section of the data privacy policy.> Please note that although we, the researchers, will not be collecting information that could identify you, only you can fully guarantee the security of the data you provide. You are encouraged to take the survey in a private location where others are unable to see your responses.

PI's are encouraged to use websites such as the Social Psychology Network (<https://www.socialpsychology.org/expts.htm>) or other similar sites within their specific disciplines.

The request, which must include the revised consent language, must be sent to the IRB at IRB@towson.edu. The administrative review will be completed within one business day. The compliance will either approve the change or inform the PI that additional review is required within one business day.

Changes to Study Procedures and/or Use of Data Panels: IRB Approval Required

Please reach out to the IRB Chair, Liz Katz, (ekatz@towson.edu) or the OSPR Compliance Staff, (irb@towson.edu) for guidance.