UTPB IRB Public Health Policy

To keep faculty, staff, and students safe and help slow the spread of COVID 19, UT Permian Basin and IRB requests that researchers consider risks associated with in-person interaction with participants. To streamline our processes we have included all necessary components of the IRB application process in one form.

The new IRB application includes questions that allow researchers to determine public health risk. If more than minimal risk is present, researchers will be asked to complete a risk mitigation form. Further, studies with more than minimal risk will require full board approval.

In-person contact should be considered in terms of both recruitment procedures and data collection procedures. Minimal risk will be associated with the following types of studies:

 Research

1. with no in-person contact.
2. in which In-person contact occurs outside.
3. In which in-person contact indoors last less than 15 minutes and researchers will wear masks and encourage participants to wear masks.

In other words, studies that include more than 15 minutes of in-person contact indoors will require a risk mitigation form and board approval. We hope that this new process will expedite minimal risk research and help our colleagues be productive.

If you have questions please contact Dr. Jamie Hughes, IRB Chair and Professor of Psychology, via email at hughes\_j@utpb.edu