**Covid-19: Advice on Ethics and Fieldwork**

**December 2020**

All fieldwork and face to face research must take into consideration the populations involved in the research. Where possible changes to research plans that limit contact should be implemented. Face to face research with remote communities and vulnerable groups may not be possible and research involving these participants must adhere to government advice and restrictions. Research that involves interstate travel will be subject to current border restrictions and associated government regulations.

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| Focus Area | Links /Resources/Comments |
| Local approvals (WSU) | * Researchers and HDR students, please note that approvals for resuming fieldwork will be reviewed at a local level. Laboratory research will also be reviewed locally by Schools and Institutes, with priority access given to students who are preparing to complete their research projects. |
| Jurisdictional compliance | * WSU provides a number of links to NSW health, LHDs etc.   [Western Sydney website](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/coronavirus-information.html?icid=hp-omc-informationoncoronavirus)   * Please check [relevant border rules](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/6167/2dw3c4b/2488102/lMkALs9AwVUTM.jvETwC3y9gPfxA4k14hsV0rbrm.html) of states and territories prior to travel or carrying out fieldwork * This [Aust Gov](https://covid19inlanguage.homeaffairs.gov.au/) site has advice (in various languages) and links covering, Health, Education, Business/Financial Support, Community Safety and Services and Borders and Visa info. * There is a specific WHO site, [Ethics and COVID-19](https://www.who.int/teams/research-for-health/covid-19), with a range of material specific to research related to Covid-19 in various forms. * Please check [NSW Government site](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/travel-and-transport-advice) for [current COVID-19 case locations](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates). |
| Data collection methods and face to face interaction | * Alternate ways of conducting research using online data collection methods      * Doing fieldwork in a pandemic: <https://nwssdtpacuk.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/doing-fieldwork-in-a-pandemic2-google-docs.pdf> * Fieldwork scenarios: <https://research.ubc.ca/phased-resumption-campus-research-scholarship-and-creative-activities/conducting-campus-fieldwork-1> * SOPs for data collection during Covid-19: <https://www.reachresourcecentre.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DataCollectionSOPCOVID-19.pdf> * [Coronavirus (COVID-19) wearing personal protective equipment for allied health professionals](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/coronavirus-covid-19-wearing-personal-protective-equipment-for-allied-health-professionals-video) video. |
| Clinical Trials | Training for researchers conducting clinical trials: Government [covid-19-infection-control-training](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training) |
| Covid-19 vulnerable groups and risk assessment | * At risk population <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/advice-for-people-at-risk-of-coronavirus-covid-19> |
| Animal research | * Wildlife Health Australia has published a report from a qualitative risk assessment on transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from humans to bats in Australia, and have updated the biosecurity information for carers, researchers and others interacting with bats:  <https://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/ProgramsProjects/BatHealthFocusGroup.aspx#COVIDBats> * COVID-19 and Australian bats – information for bat carers, researchers and others interacting with bats (Oct 2020): <https://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/Documents/ProgramProjects/COVID-19_Aust_bat_carers_researchers_Oct2020.pdf> |
| Travel | * Travel guidelines   <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions/coronavirus-covid-19-domestic-travel-restrictions-and-remote-area-access> |