

Guidelines for Research Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic – We are currently at **Step 5**

Updated July 2022

Step	Guidance from PHO	Meetings (e.g. graduate committee)	Events (e.g. workshops, conferences)	Lab work	Field work	Class-based research	Human participants** See REB Bulletin #5	Research Travel** see note below
Normal, Non Covid requirements	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required safety training	Project Risk Assessment to be completed and sent to safety@unbc.ca and research@unbc.ca	Project Risk Assessment (for field projects), Research Ethics Board or Animal Care and Use approval as needed.	Research Ethics Board Approval	Travel authorization BEFORE travel.
Step 1 Earliest = June 1	Masks mandatory indoors, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning	Masks mandatory, maximum occupancy limits, sanitize area before and after	Masks mandatory indoors, maximum occupancy limits, up to 10 people indoors, review Exposure Control Plan checklist	Masks mandatory, maximum occupancy limits, Exposure Control Plan checklist sent to Safety Office	Covid safety plan attached to Project Risk Assessment, masks mandatory in vehicles, sanitize vehicles and common equipment	Masks mandatory, Safe Research plan submitted with Research Ethics application, and to Safety Office.	Safe Research Plan- guidelines can be found here . Submit with Research Ethics application and Safety Office.	Travel for research is defined as essential and intraprovincial travel allowed. Request letter from Safety Office
Step 2 Earliest = June 15	Masks mandatory indoors, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning	Masks mandatory, maximum occupancy limits, sanitize area before and after	Masks mandatory indoors, maximum occupancy limits, up to 50 people indoors, Exposure Control Plan checklist sent to Safety Office	Masks mandatory, maximum occupancy limits, Exposure Control Plan checklist sent to Safety Office	Covid safety plan attached to Project Risk Assessment, masks mandatory in vehicles, sanitize vehicles and common equipment	Masks mandatory, Safe Research plan submitted with Research Ethics application, and to Safety Office	Safe Research Plan- guidelines can be found here . Submit with Research Ethics application and Safety Office.	Travel within province unrestricted.
Step 3 Earliest = July 1	Masks mandatory indoors, careful social contact,	Masks recommended, normal occupancy	Masks recommended, normal occupancy, Exposure Control Plan checklist	Masks recommended, normal occupancy, Exposure Control Plan checklist	Covid safety plan attached to Project Risk Assessment, masks	Masks recommended, Safe Research plan submitted with Research Ethics	Masks recommended for in-person interviews, Safe Research Plan required.	Travel within Canada unrestricted.

	enhanced cleaning		sent to Safety Office	sent to Safety Office	recommended in vehicles	application, and to Safety Office		
Interim Measures – Aug. 25 to ??	Masks mandatory for indoor spaces on campus except for listed exemptions.	Masks mandatory unless physical distancing, and all participants OK with no mask	Masks mandatory, vaccinations mandatory as per PHO requirements for non-essential activities , normal occupancy	Masks mandatory unless working alone, normal occupancy, Exposure Control Plan checklist sent to Safety Office	Masks mandatory in vehicles unless alone, masks mandatory in field unless physical distancing. Enhanced sanitation, Covid safety plan attached to Project Risk Assessment,	Masks mandatory, REB approvals must include Safe Research Plan, Covid safety plan attached to Project Risk Assessment for field projects.	Safe Research Plan required. Masks mandatory for in-person interviews but see latest REB bulletin.	Travel within Canada unrestricted. Check with Safety Office regarding International travel. Consider how important your travel is relative to risks. Mandatory vaccination to board flights etc. starting Oct. 30, 2021
Step 4	Masks personal choice, normal social contact, enhanced cleaning	Masks optional, normal occupancy	Masks optional, normal occupancy	Masks optional, normal occupancy	Masks in vehicles optional	Masks optional, as in Step 1 for non-covid requirements	Masks optional. Safe Research Plan required.	Travel within Canada unrestricted. Check with Safety Office regarding International travel. Consider how important your travel is relative to risks. Mandatory vaccination to board flights continues.
Step 5	Masks personal choice, normal social contact, enhanced cleaning	Masks optional, normal occupancy	Masks optional, normal occupancy	Masks optional, normal occupancy	Masks in vehicles optional	Masks optional, as in Step 1 for non-covid requirements	Masks optional. Safe Research Plan only required in cases where there are special community considerations.	Travel unrestricted. Masks required on flights.