

COVID-19 / Coronavirus Considerations for Research Involving Biohazard materials

Guidance for UNTHSC investigators regarding the recent COVID-19 situation.

What do I need to know about conducting research involving biohazard material that is currently approved by the UNTHSC IBC?

As referenced in the guidance issued by the UNTHSC Vice President for Research on March 17, 2020:

general guidance about research activity:

- All researchers should consider the impact of their research activity on the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Tarrant County has issued a Shelter in Place notice. Please contact your respective Dean to request access to the campus.
- Individual investigators should develop their own contingency and research continuity plans. Please note that compliance must be upheld while making contingency and research continuity plans.

Please view the [CDC website](#) for guidance related to COVID-19. Please view the [UNTHSC Website](#) for specific COVID-19 updates regarding UNTHSC.

Will the UNTHSC IBC office continue normal operations?

The IBC Administrators are working from home, but are available for normal activities and can be contacted by email:

Maya Nair, Biosafety Officer: Maya.nair@unthsc.edu

Helen Orimoloye, IBC Coordinator: ibc@unthsc.edu

Will COVID-19 affect the IBC submission deadlines and meeting dates?

The IBC will maintain the submission deadlines and meeting dates during this time and will meet remotely (zoom conference) to ensure continuing oversight and programmatic activities. The submission deadline and meeting dates can be found on the [UNTHSC Biosafety web Page](#).

There will not be any change to the following processes:

Protocol submission for new protocols

Amendment submission for changes to approved protocols

Renewal submissions