

**Columbia University Field or Community Research  
Research Ramp-up Working Group**

Updated: October 20, 2021

**Guidelines for Field or Community Research**

1. The principles of safety, fairness, volunteerism and privacy govern field/community research, just as they govern on-site research at Columbia.
2. Research plans for field/community research must comply, to the extent possible, with the same COVID-19-related public health measures as any on-site research activity, including researcher/staff vaccination policy, indoor use of face coverings, and other requirements as noted on the Columbia COVID-19 website for on-site research at Columbia. Exceptions may apply if a particular research facility implements risk reduction guidelines that are functionally equivalent to those guiding research on Columbia's campuses. As always, field/community research must comply with the University's local and international travel policies.
3. For research outside of New York City, such plans must also comply with any local requirements, e.g., vaccination, testing and quarantine requirements for travelers from New York.
4. Plans for field/community research should outline the types of activities, the risks involved, risk mitigation strategy, and plans for response in the event of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case among researchers/staff. Fieldwork plans must address the following concerns in relation to COVID-19: travel risk, including both travel to the research site and travel while at the field site; food and lodging risk; and research activity risk.
5. Field/community research plans must consider the risk to the community, as well as that to the researcher and to the campus upon the researcher's return.
6. Field/community research requiring in-person interactions, including human subjects research, will require a detailed plan to be reviewed by the applicable department, school, center or institute in accordance with University and school procedures. An IRB-approved protocol is also required for human subjects research.

**Prior approval of any field/community research is required by the relevant Dean, Director or Vice President.**