Combined Town Hall
HSRC and OCR&FW
April 13, 2021
Yale’s Research Reactivation

- **Phase 0:** critical research only
- **Phase 1 of Yale’s research reactivation:** only essential research
- **Phase 2 of Yale’s research reactivation:** all research with safety and travel restrictions, some HSR restricted
- **Phase 3 of Yale’s research reactivation:** same as Phase 2 but undergrads permitted

- **December 2020:** tightening of Yale’s safety restrictions
  - Safety Updates for Off-Campus Research and Fieldwork - Natural Sciences
  - Safety Updates for Off-Campus Research and Fieldwork - Humanities and Social Sciences
- **April 2021:** modifying guidance
Key Committees for Research Reactivation

- Overall Research Continuity Committee
- Natural Sciences, Engineering and Math Research Continuity Committee
- Humanities and Social Sciences Research Continuity Committee
- Human Subjects Research Review Committee
- Off-Campus Research and Fieldwork Review Committee
University Travel Policy

University sponsored travel is permitted for fully vaccinated faculty, staff, and students subject to obtaining approvals required under existing university policies and processes -- [https://covid19.yale.edu/travel-guidelines](https://covid19.yale.edu/travel-guidelines)

**Fully vaccinated travelers**

- Do not need to be tested before or after domestic travel.
- Do not need to quarantine upon arrival from any travel.
- Must submit negative test before boarding return flight to US.
- Must test 3-5 days after international travel.
- Wear a mask, avoid crowds, wash hands while traveling.
- Research is permitted with approval of the [Off-Campus Research and Fieldwork Committee](https://www.yale.edu/offcampus) or if research is exempt from committee approval.

**Unvaccinated individuals** should postpone travel until they are fully vaccinated.

- If travel is necessary, upon return travelers must:
  - Quarantine for 10 days or
  - Quarantine until they obtain two negative tests four days apart.
• On April 2, the CDC changed its travel guidance for fully vaccinated individuals and Connecticut has adopted the CDC guidance. CDC recommends delaying travel until fully vaccinated.

• **Recommendations by destination**
  • Level 4 (very high – avoid all travel) – 158 countries
  • Level 3 (high – avoid all non-essential travel) – 19 countries
  • Level 2 (moderate – travelers who are at risk avoid all non-essential travel) – 15 countries
  • Level 1 (low – take normal precautions such as wear a mask, 6-foot distance, wash hands often) – 24 countries
  • Unknown (no data reported – avoid) – 29 countries

• **US Department of State** and **International SOS** also provide guidance ratings.

• Overlap yields a very small number of countries that are low risk. HOWEVER...
However...

- Can you get there? Is the airport open? Are there flights? Can you avoid transit through other countries?
- Will they let you in?
- Do you need a test(s) to enter? China requires specific tests.
- Can you get the required test to return to the US?
- Will you have to quarantine on arrival?
- What happens if you test positive while there?
- What happens if there is a new lockdown? Remember last spring?
- What happens if you become ill or have an accident? Is the health system functioning? ISOS may not be able to evacuate if there are restrictions.
- What if you cannot get back?
Plan and Prepare

Resources:
- Yale Travel Guidelines
- Yale and the World International Toolkit
- International SOS reports
  - COVID Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening
  - Country Reports
- State Department Country Information
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidance.

Before leaving:
- Carry documentation
- Register your travel
- Plan for return – testing quarantine
What is the off-Campus Research and Fieldwork Committee?

• Composed of faculty, trainees, reps. of OIA/Provost from across campus (https://research.yale.edu/research-reactivation-campus-research-and-field-work-committee)

Chair (Steven Wilkinson) and three sub-committees
  • Natural Sciences (Os Schmitz)
  • Social Sciences and Humanities (Doug Rogers)
  • Libraries, Archives, and Collections (Joanne Meyerowitz)

• Reviews off-campus and international research proposals from faculty, graduate student and trainee during the pandemic

• Yale College has its own processes https://cipe.yale.edu/travel-resources/travel-policy

• Works in parallel, and when necessary in conjunction with, the Human Subject Research Review committee if the proposed work includes medical procedures, biological samples, or requires physical contact with research subjects
What do we care about when evaluating proposals?

Three broad considerations

1. Safety of researchers

2. Safety of the Yale and New Haven communities

3. Safety of others with whom researchers interact around the world
Challenges

• Our goal is to approve as much research as possible, BUT

• The course of the pandemic is constantly changing

• Accordingly
  • Our processes and approvals pay attention to changing Yale, international, local and institutional policies, and changing conditions on the ground
  • Some approvals will be for shorter periods than requested, or conditional on circumstances, or on a Yale/Government policy decision

• We recognize this is frustrating
First step for researchers:

Route the application to the appropriate field

See flowchart and text at the Pathways to Research Reactivation website (https://research.yale.edu/phase-1-2-and-3-pathways-research-reactivation)
To which committee (if any) should I submit?

- **Start here for Office/Labs**
- **Start here for Research**

1. Are you registering people for single or multiple occupancy offices and your dean has asked you to use Integrator? Click here
2. Are you adding people or spaces to an approved Phase 1, 2 protocol, or adding Yale undergraduate researchers in Phase 3, or registering a lab or special facility? Click here
3. Is your research covered by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol for Human Subjects Research?
4. Does your work involve solitary archival, library, museum or natural science fieldwork in which social distancing is easily accomplished?
5. Does your research involve off-campus research or fieldwork that does not require IRB approval?
6. Does your research take place on campus?
7. Does your research involve human subject interaction that requires physical contact, biological samples, and/or medical procedures?
8. If you are unsure about which committee should review your application, select the option that best fits your primary research plans. The committees communicate to ensure that appropriate expertise is applied to each application.
Exempt research

Some research is exempt from committee – see self-assessment form (Qualtrics survey)

- Is your proposed research limited to your own activities in an off-campus field/library/museum setting where there would be limited contact with others?
- Will you be working on your own, unaccompanied by colleagues, assistants, or supervisors?
- Will you consult with the field-sites/libraries/museums that you plan to visit to verify their regulations and practices and to ensure that social distancing is feasible?
- Will you adhere to all relevant (local, national, institutional, Connecticut, and Yale) health and safety guidelines?
- Will you follow the best practices outlined here?
- If you are a graduate student, have you discussed your research plans with your faculty advisor, and will you share a copy of your plans with your DGS?

If YES to all those questions - no need to apply for Committee review
• If research involves in-person contact with human subjects or meets one or more of the following conditions, researcher must submit an application on EHS Integrator:
  
  • Research covered by an IRB protocol
  
  • Research that employs trainees, employees, contractors, or others conducting research on your behalf
  
  • Research that involves teams of people working in physical proximity
  
  • Research that involves use of lab space
  
  • Research that involves travel across international boundaries
• EHS Integrator

• Building areas, Assistants (who is conducting the research), Questions
Fieldwork and Off Campus Research Reactivation Committee
Social Sciences and Humanities Subcommittee Intake Questionnaire

Instructions: This form is to be completed by researchers requesting permission to undertake non-medical off-campus research during Yale Phase 2 and 3 re-opening. It covers a variety of types of research—answer only those questions appropriate to your plans. If you are a graduate student, undergraduate student, postdoctoral researcher, or other trainee conducting your own research, please complete questions 1-13 and then send this form to your adviser/supervisor, along with your IRB protocol, if applicable. Your adviser/supervisor must complete question 14 and then submit both documents through EHS Integrator on your behalf. If you are a lecturer advising graduate students or supervising postdoctoral researchers, send an email to EHSIntegrator@yale.edu to request access to EHS Integrator.

1. Name

2. Contact Email

3. Primary Department and School

4. Position: Faculty, Graduate or Undergraduate Student, Postdoctoral fellow, Lecturer, or Other

5. Project Title

6. Dates of Proposed Research

7. If your research involves any travel (international, domestic, or onsite), describe the safety and feasibility your travel plans and steps you will take to reduce risks of transmission during travel. Yale’s current international and domestic Covid-19 travel policies and guidance can be found here and should inform your planning. Yale’s travel registry can be found behind CAS here. In addition, more detailed up-to-date information on local conditions can be accessed here. Include quarantine plans upon return to Connecticut if applicable, keeping in mind that conditions may change. Current Connecticut guidelines on self-quarantine requirements on return are here.

8. If the planned research is covered by an IRB protocol, please upload a copy to EHS integrator. If you have modified your IRB protocol since the beginning of the pandemic, please explain:

14. Please describe the conversations you have had with your advisee or trainee about safety resuming research in Phase 2 and 3 certify that the above plans and protocols are mutually acceptable.

Please note: If the Fieldwork and Off Campus committee has questions about this application, they will communicate with the faculty member submitting this form, with additional notification to the student or trainee if applicable.
Human Subjects Research Committee (HSRC)

• Co-chairs: Eric Velazquez, M.D. and Gregory McCarthy, Ph.D.

• Members: Faculty, post-doc, graduate student, and research assistant representatives from YSM, YSN, YSPH, YSOM, and FAS, ex officio YCCI and HRPP

• Provost office and EHS: Angelika Hofmann, Ph.D. (Provost office) and Kevin Charbonneau (EHS)
• Reviews research reactivation protocols that involve in-person human subjects research and which require IRB approval

• Protocols are submitted through EHS Integrator

• Three teams of reviewers with secondary review by the co-chairs and then by EHS
HSRC Criteria

• Assess appropriateness of procedures, PPE, de-densification, ventilation (in consultation with EHS)

• Special restrictions apply for
  • out-of-state recruitment
  • off-campus research
  • some activities such as those that generate aerosols, or which require participants to be unmasked, or where social distance cannot be maintained
Key Links

- [Off-Campus Research and Fieldwork Committee](#)
- [Human Subjects Research Review Committee](#)
- [Pathways to Research Reactivation website](#)
- [Yale COVID-19 Travel Guidelines](#)
- Undergraduates wishing to travel should consult [CIPE](#)
- Yale and the World International [Toolkit](#)
- International SOS [reports](#)
- [State Department](#) Country Information
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [Guidance](#)
- [Register your travel](#)
- [Plan for return – testing quarantine](#)