

September 29, 2020

2020-2021 Addendum: to the State Supplement of the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida

In acknowledging the unique challenges that the 2020-21 school year represents, and adhering to our tantamount responsibility to ensure our students' safety, especially in light of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the following supplemental rules are established *for this year only and are effective immediately.*

1. There shall be **no collection** of vertebrate body fluids or experimentation with them. This shall include, but not limited to, saliva, blood, sweat, urine, spittle, and the like.
2. Any PHBA project performed in a location other than the lab in a student's school must have the following: (reminders – we are finding that RRI's are not allowing students in their labs this year! If so, please adhere to the following.)
 - **Prior to initiation of research:**
 - BSL level 1 or BSL level 2 completed
 - Letter of pre-approval on institutional letterhead by the appropriate administrator (i.e. Dean or Department Chair for a college or university) with complete contact information. The same administrator must also countersign the BSL checklist.
 - The signatory administrator cannot also serve as Adult Sponsor, Qualified Scientist, Designated Supervisor, or School SRC member for the project.
 - **After completion of research** - Form 1 C Regulated Research Institution/Industrial Setting Form should be completed
3. All **Human Participant** studies must be done remotely without direct contact between the researcher and the participant.
 - All Consents, including Parental Consents for Minors, shall be collected remotely using Electronic or Digital Signatures. A scanned version of a signed consent that is emailed to the Student's Designated Supervisor or Qualified Scientist can be considered an acceptable electronic signature.
Note: *Guidelines for Digital Informed Assent and Parental Permission for Minors*- attached
 - Any Human Participant study that has received IRB approval prior to October 1, 2020, may use those consent forms. Any experimentation, surveys or results generated by those consent forms must be done virtually. Data compiled in person, even if prior to October 1, 2020, cannot be used.

4. *COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Requirements*** Risk Assessment for Research**

Student researchers and supervising adults should be aware of guidance or regulations from their school district, schools, research facilities, as well as the state, county and local and abide with the most restrictive requirements with the utmost caution and care. The safety of the entire community should be a priority.

Due to the special circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, **it is highly recommended that ALL students include in their risk assessment how they will mitigate the spread of the disease while conducting their experiment.** Examples of such mitigations include (but are not limited to):

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- Wearing a face covering while conducting experiments outside of the home environment.
- Maintaining a 6-foot distance from people not in the researcher's immediate social cohort.
- Washing hands frequently.
- Keeping work space clean and disinfected. This is especially important if the student is working in a shared space.

Note: Just because many schools are teaching students remotely this year, does not mean that the rules regarding what can and cannot be done in a home environment have changed. Student researchers must still follow all of the guidelines regarding where PHBA, Vertebrate Animal and Human Participant projects must take place. Please reference the International Rules and do not hesitate to email src@societyforscience.org with any questions. Please also be aware that your affiliate fair may have more restrictive requirements, particularly under current conditions.