

## AUTECH Guidance during COVID-19 Public Health Rāhui 6 October 2020

### Ethics Approvals and research activity involving physical proximity

From Thursday 8 October 2020 New Zealand is at a level 1 public health alert.

AUTECH reminds researchers that data collection involving physical proximity may occur only as long as researchers and participants are complying with [the current public health guidelines](#). These may include limiting the size of gatherings, maintaining physical distancing, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, and collecting sufficient information to enable quick and accurate contact tracing.

AUTECH encourages researchers to consult with their managers, supervisors or teams, and the AUTECH Secretariat if necessary, to develop protocols that are in line with [Ministry of Health guidelines](#), and appropriate for their specific research project. If these protocols are different than those approved by AUTECH, researchers will need to seek an amendment to their approval using [the EA2 form which can be found here](#).

Researchers are also encouraged to consider carefully the safety of their participants and themselves, particularly when [people in an at-risk category](#) are involved.

**All research at this time must be conducted in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidelines which may be found [here](#).**

### Drop In and Advisory support

Drop Ins and Advisory support continue to be available by Zoom, TEAMS, and telephone as well as in person when the public health restrictions allow it. [Information on what is available this week and next week can be found on the Research Ethics website](#).

# CONTACT DETAILS

## AUTEC SECRETARIAT – [ethics@aut.ac.nz](mailto:ethics@aut.ac.nz)

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## Submitting Ethics Applications and Amendments

Applications and amendments may be submitted in one of two ways as follows:

- By email: A single .pdf file containing the form and all related documents is to be emailed to [ethics@aut.ac.nz](mailto:ethics@aut.ac.nz). The scanned single .pdf file must have the EA form at the beginning and the other documents in the order stated in the form. The application or amendment must have all the required signatures.
- In printed form: The signed and printed form and all related documents are to be delivered by hand or mailed to the AUTEC Secretariat. The printed copies are to be in greyscale, single sided, and with no staples. (Internal Mail Code D-88, by post to Private Bag 92006, Auckland 1142, by courier to Room WU406, 4th Floor, WU Building, 46 Wakefield Street, Auckland 1010). Alternatively, printed forms may be submitted to the Research Ethics Advisor at one of the drop in sessions.