

AUTEC Guidance for researching under the COVID-19 Protection Framework

23 March 2022

Ethics Approvals and research activity involving physical proximity

New Zealand is operating under [the COVID-19 Protection Framework](#) and researchers need to ensure that any research involving physical proximity is undertaken in accordance with [the public health measures](#) in place for the region in which the research occurs.

AUTEC reminds researchers that data collection involving physical proximity will differ for those who are fully vaccinated and those who are unvaccinated. Public health measures that need to be considered include:

- meeting all up-to-date infection prevention controls, e.g. equipment sanitising protocols,
- limits on gatherings,
- maintaining physical distancing, and
- wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

These guidelines include meeting any vaccination requirements that may still be in place on the site in which you are conducting the research. This is part of having appropriate access permission, which is a condition of all AUTEC ethics approvals. Researchers need to implement, in this order:

- [The current public health guidelines](#);
- [The Ministry of Education guidelines for Tertiary Education](#);
- [Auckland University of Technology's guidelines](#), which include [guidelines for the conduct of research](#).

AUTEC encourages researchers to consult with their managers, supervisors or teams, and the AUTEC 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 AUTEC, researchers will need to seek an amendment to their approval using [the EA2 form which can be found here](#). Given the virulent nature of virus and the stresses of living with pandemic restrictions, researchers are 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

[Information on what is available may be found on the Research Ethics website.](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

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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. 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.