

## NewsFlash!

**Announcement:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is aware of applicant concerns about the potential impact of this temporary emergency situation on the outcome of peer review. NIH has subsequently released [guidance for reviewers](#) that makes it clear that, when reviewing applications during the coronavirus pandemic national emergency, reviewers should assume that issues resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, such as the following, should **not** affect scores.

- Some key personnel on grant applications may be called up to serve in patient testing or patient care roles, diverting effort from the proposed research.
- Feasibility of the proposed approach may be affected, (Ex. if direct patient contact is required).
- The environment may not be functional or accessible.
- Additional human subjects protections may be in order, for example if the application was submitted prior to the viral outbreak.
- Animal welfare may be affected, if institutions are closed temporarily.
- Biohazards may include insufficient protections for research personnel.
- Recruitment plans and inclusion plans may be delayed, if certain patient populations are affected by the viral outbreak.
- Travel for key personnel or trainees to attend scientific conferences, meetings of consortium leadership, etc., may be postponed temporarily.
- Curricula proposed in training grant applications may have to be converted to online formats temporarily.
- Conferences proposed in R13/U13 applications may be cancelled or postponed.

The National Institutes of Health will work with applicants to resolve issues related to temporary, emergency conditions prior to award.

The [COVID-19 reviewer guidance](#), along with [FAQs](#) for applicants and awardees can be found in NIH's central repository of resources, [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#). You can also review the [COVID-19 research-related updates](#) section of the Office of Research website for more information.

### Questions?

If you have any questions, please reach out to the [Contracts and Grants Officer](#) assigned to your unit.