

The HREB Chair emailed the SUNY New Paltz community on October 8, 2019, with HREB Updates containing information on NEW Exempt Categories.

Dear Researcher,

The Exempt categories have changed. To be clear, Exempt does not mean exempt from review. It means that there are certain guidelines to which the researcher does not have to strictly adhere. Attached is a list of the new Exempt categories. Revised forms, called templates, for: 1) Survey/Interview Exemption, 2) Educational Exemption, 3) Existing Data Exemption, and 4) the Benign Behavioral Intervention Exemption (this is new see the description below) can be found on the [HREB website](#) and in the PACS IRB Library.

Below is a brief list of the changes:

There are now 8 Exempt categories. Attached is a list of the new Exempt categories. Below are some key changes to these categories:

- The Survey/Interview exemption allows for the collection of personally identifiable data. Now you can use the short Exempt form even if you are collecting identifiers. The new form now contains questions about data security and data storage that must be answered. Note this form cannot be used if you are surveying individuals under 18.
- There is a new category called "Benign Behavioral Interventions." Research that involves manipulation of variables that are "brief in duration, harmless, painless, not physically invasive, not likely to have a significant adverse lasting impact on the subjects, and the investigator has no reason to think the subjects will find the interventions offensive or embarrassing." This exemption is not applicable for research involving deception "unless the subject authorizes the deception through a prospective agreement to participate in research and the subject is informed that they will be unaware of or they will be misled regarding the nature or purposes of the research." This exemption can only be used for the collection of information from adult participants through verbal written responses (including data entry) or audiovisual recording. If you are collecting biological data such as heart rate, EEG, or data from a fitness tracker like a Fitbit, this exemption does not apply. This exemption also does not apply to children.
- The existing data exemption has been changed. Existing data is now called secondary research. There are additional qualifications about what can be considered exempt or not.
- Research collecting biospecimens have additional requirements that must be met.
- There are broad consent requirements for storage, maintenance, and secondary research use of personally identifiable data and biospecimens.
- There are restrictions on the storage and maintenance of biospecimen data and personally identifiable data **for secondary research**.
- Former Exempt category 3 that applied to research with public and elected officials has been removed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at HREBchair@newpaltz.edu or give me a call at 845-257-3476. You may also contact Roseann Merrill at HREBcoordinator@newpaltz.edu or by phone at 257-3282.

Maryalice Citera, Chair, Human Research Ethics Board