IRB Decision Tree #1

Will you, a member of your research team or a collaborator, observe, interact with, or intervene with living individuals to gather information that will be used for research?

Examples:
- Surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, interviews
- Physical/Electronic games, experiments, or tasks
- Biomedical/Physical procedures, e.g., imagine, scanning, blood collection, exercise, etc.
- Diet or nutrition studies, taste tests
- Studies on effectiveness of educational strategies, teaching methods, curricula
- Use of instruments, sensors, electronic devices, apps, software, or recording mechanisms (e.g., video, screen capture, key logging, etc.) to collect data or monitor or influence behavior
- Studies examining individuals' responses to manipulation of their physical/online environment
- Any other activity that involves observation of, or interaction with, individuals to gather information for research (in physical or online environments, including social media)

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Is the information being collected 'about' individuals?

YES

Refer to IRB Decision Tree #2 (Secondary Use of Data) and/or Non-human Subject Research guidance, as applicable.

NO

Is this a class assignment or project?

YES

Is the sole intent of the project to meet course requirements, and the results will not be used for something other than the course assignment?

YES

This is not human subjects research. IRB review/approval is NOT required.

NO

Refer to the "Request for Waiver IRB Application for Class Projects" form.

NO

NO

Is the information being collected 'about' individuals?

YES

Is this a class assignment or project?

NO

NO

Is the project an oral history, ethnography, or journalistic piece?

YES

NO

Will information be used by the researchers to draw broad conclusions about a population, culture, or norms and practices, even if no research hypothesis is being tested or validated?

YES

NO

Is this a quality assurance / quality improvement / organizational effectiveness study?

YES

NO

Is there intent to generalize outcomes for other organizations, programs, or services?

YES

NO

NO

NO

YES

Does my project require IRB approval?

YES

NO

IRB Decision Tree #1

Adapted from Iowa State University, Office of Research Ethics.

Questions? Contact irb@coloradomesa.edu

(HOVER OVER INFO ICON TO SEE HELP/ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE)