



Exceptions to DPH Institutional Review Board (IRB) Oversight

IRB oversight is not required (i.e., no application needed) for your project if it only involves one or more of the activities listed below:

1. Collection of data in the course of providing clinical care
2. Conducting legally-mandated local, state or federal public health surveillance or environmental investigations (refer to the following document for more information about [surveillance](#))
3. Criminal investigation of activities in support of national security measures
4. Anonymous meeting evaluations
5. Customer satisfaction surveys that do not collect/access:
 - a. Data about persons belonging to vulnerable populations
 - b. Data related to sensitive topics such as substance use
 - c. Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or Protected Health Information (PHI)
6. Staff assessments, needs assessments or other internal queries that pertain to core job duties and skills
7. Program evaluation activities for internal use and which do not collect/access:
 - a. Data about persons belonging to vulnerable populations
 - b. Data that involve sensitive topics, PII or PHI
8. Training evaluations for internal use that are linked to receiving continuing education units or certificates of completion and that do not collect/access:
 - a. Data about persons belonging to vulnerable populations
 - b. Data that involve sensitive topics, PII or PHI
9. Secondary analysis of de-identified data (biomarkers such as retinal scans, etc., are not considered de-identified data)
10. Listening sessions that do not collect/access:
 - a. Data about persons belonging to vulnerable populations
 - b. Data that involve sensitive topics, PII or PHI
11. Projects that do not involve humans subjects (e.g., animals only, some lab studies)

If you determine that your project does not need IRB oversight based on this guidance, please email us at IRB@ph.lacounty.gov to let us know your self-determination.

The Office of the IRB reserves the right to make the final determination.

