



# Data Privacy and Information Security: *Researcher Checklist*

Planning and Grant Writing Phase	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Allocate money and time in your project budget to ensure a team member is charged with responsibility for privacy and information security.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Understand UBC's <a href="#">Access and Privacy Requirements</a> and <a href="#">Information Security Policies</a> , as well as the policies of any other institutions you are affiliated with.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. In addition to the <a href="#">Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</a> , understand any other legislative requirements relevant to your research. These may include the <a href="#">Personal Information Protection Act</a> (for physicians working in the private sector) and the <a href="#">E-Health Act</a> (if you are accessing a Health Information Bank).
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Require all project team members to complete the TCPS-2 Course on Research Ethics <a href="#">Online Tutorial</a> and consider using UBC's <a href="#">Data Management Planning Assistant (DMP)</a> to plan for your research.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Schedule regular project team meetings to conduct data privacy and information security training and require all members to sign a confidentiality pledge. Consider using <a href="#">Population Data BC's Confidentiality Pledge</a> as a template.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Understand UBC's procedures for <a href="#">Reporting Information Security Incidents</a> and <a href="#">Handling Privacy Breaches</a> , as well as the related procedures of any other affiliated institutions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Ensure all research involving human participants that is conducted under the auspices of your institution is approved by and overseen by a sanctioned Research Ethics Board.
Data Collection, Analysis and Storage Phase	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Clearly identify all methods of collection, use, storage, linkage and disclosure of personal information for research and evaluation purposes in your consent form. See <a href="#">Population Data BC's Consent Form Sample and Guidelines</a> and the <a href="#">BC Clinical Research Informed Consent Form Guide and Template</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Limit the amount of data you collect -- don't collect data you don't need "just in case".
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Say no to the Cloud! Be aware of the restrictions on <a href="#">storing personal information outside Canada</a> . Do not use tools such as Dropbox, Gmail, Survey Monkey or Google Docs without appropriate consents in place.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Store data on a secure, centralized system (such as the University's central servers, or the <a href="#">Workspace service</a> ) or consider <a href="#">Population Data BC's Secure Research Environment</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. De-identify data immediately. Segregate personal information from the other data collected. <a href="#">Encrypt</a> your electronic file that correlates study ID to personal information.

<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Implement requirements for physical and information security controls of your office and/or datacentre including encryption controls, appropriate firewalls, update to software and patch management. The <a href="#">UBC Information Security Office</a> can provide assistance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Provide data access to project team members on a “need to know” basis.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Restrict user accounts and folder permissions and enable logging functions to audit access to data files.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Encrypt all devices used to store, access, disclose or transfer personal information including backups, working copies and any transmissions. You may wish to use <a href="#">UBC’s Encryption Services</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Take proactive measures to prevent theft or loss of mobile devices containing project data. Comply with <a href="#">UBC’s Working Remotely standard</a> . Never leave any mobile devices (laptop, phone, USB drive etc.) that may contain data unattended.

Data Retention and Destruction Phase	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Monitor timelines for data retention and closure outlined in ethics approval, consent form and funding application. Complete REB project closure. Make appropriate plans for archiving your project data to meet UBC policy requirements for study data to be retained for at least 5 years within a UBC facility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Consider public access conditions for sharing your data, and whether <a href="#">UBC Abacus Dataverse</a> meets access requirements. Assign <a href="#">DOIs</a> to your research products.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Track and log disposal of all University-owned devices and electronic information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Be prepared to provide a <a href="#">data destruction certificate</a> upon request to a data steward.

*This checklist is a simplified summary of complex privacy and security requirements; it will evolve over time as more standards are created. This checklist was prepared by Kaitlyn Gutteridge, Research Data Privacy and Security Officer ([kaitlyn.gutteridge@ubc.ca](mailto:kaitlyn.gutteridge@ubc.ca)) in consultation with Paul Hancock, Legal Counsel, Information and Privacy, Office of the University Counsel ([paul.hancock@ubc.ca](mailto:paul.hancock@ubc.ca)). They would be pleased to answer your questions.*

*An electronic version of the checklist can be found here: <https://arc.ubc.ca/access-high-performance-computing/tools-resources>*