

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2023 COUNCIL ROUND:
GUIDANCE FOR NIH PEER REVIEWERS**

The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in NIH research and about the effects on the biomedical enterprise in the areas affected by the HHS declared public health emergency for COVID-19. The NIH is equally grateful to the thousands of reviewers who are serving in NIH peer review during this time.

The following guidance should be followed for applications undergoing initial peer review for the January 2023 Council round:

- Constraints arising from the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., lab occupancy restrictions, declines in patient accrual, etc.) will be resolved during the project period and should not affect their scores.
- Reviewers should take pandemic-related circumstances (explained below) into account when assessing applicants' productivity and other score-driving factors.
 - NIH grant applications should NOT include contingency or recovery plans for problems resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Applicants may address effects due to the pandemic on productivity or other scoreable issues in their Personal Statement in the NIH Biosketch.
- For this review cycle, preliminary data will be accepted as [*post-submission materials*](#), up to 30 days before the review meeting. Reviewers should consider these and other post-submission materials in their written critiques and scores.