

## PHC RESEARCH GUIDANCE DURING CURTAILMENT

### 1. CURRENTLY APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- a. Projects that involve **in-person** research activities
  - i. If research is critical and must continue as approved, apply for an **EXEMPTION** to continue ([download exemption form](#)).
  - ii. If research is not critical and cannot be conducted without in-person interactions, **POSTPONE** your research until the curtailment has been lifted.
  - iii. If research can be modified to allow it to continue virtually, **SUBMIT** a plan to modify your research to the REB for approval. This might include:
    1. Study visits conducted via telephone, videoconference or telehealth
    2. Shipment of study drug/supplies to participants' homes
    3. Local laboratory testing
    4. Online surveys/questionnaires
    5. Electronic consent for recruitment
    6. Details of how research staff can work remotely (access to hospital servers, etc.)
    7. Changes to recruitment procedures (i.e. projects with no in-hospital recruitment can send information letters to eligible patients indicating that research assistants will be following up regarding research participation).
    8. How security and confidentiality of data will be protected
- b. Projects that do **NOT** involve in-person research activities (and do not require on-site resources or require staff to be on-site) can **CONTINUE** as approved.

### 2. NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE REB

- a. COVID-related projects that have received an exemption
- b. Critical in-person research projects that have received an exemption
- c. Research projects that do not involve in-person interactions and can be conducted remotely

All other research submitted will be reviewed as resources allow but timelines for review are affected by the pandemic and approvals will not be issued until the curtailment is lifted.

### 3. POST APPROVAL ACTIVITIES

The REB will be reviewing PAA's as usual but it is assumed that your research will adhere to one of the conditions set out in section 1.

- a. Annual Renewals – please indicate on the PAA coversheet whether your research is continuing or paused for COVID. Renewals will be processed as usual.
- b. Amendments
  - i. Administrative amendments (adding team members, funding) will be reviewed and approved as normal.
  - ii. Amendments to modify your protocol to add COVID research will require an exemption.
  - iii. Amendments to modify your protocol to change from in-person to virtual visits will be reviewed as usual and will not require an exemption.
- c. Request for acknowledgement (RFA)
  - i. Protocol deviations must be submitted as per usual REB requirements (only when participant safety or study integrity is affected). Multiple deviations that do not impact safety but are required to be submitted by the sponsor can be submitted in one summary document.
  - ii. COVID documentation that outlines temporary measures for conducting your study during the pandemic should be uploaded and explained on the PAA coversheet.