

TO: All Faculty, Staff, and Students

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RE: COVID -19 Clinical Research Guidance Update

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve rapidly we are providing updated guidance on the clinical research policy across the MSHS. Our priority is the safety of our research subjects and study staff as well as our broader community. Only essential face to face visits should occur, where the benefits to subjects outweigh these expanded risks. Researchers should not recruit subjects to come to clinical research sites solely for the purpose of clinical research follow-up visits as this constitutes unnecessary exposure issues. This includes subjects involved in ongoing multi-visit protocols - unless postponing follow-up constitutes a safety issue to the subject, every attempt should be made to re-schedule these visits. If the PI determines that a subject needs to be seen you must follow the institutional guidelines for screening for coronavirus, which have been previously circulated and can be found here on the MSHS intranet, prior to seeing these participants. To the extent possible, researchers and research staff should work from home and identify remote means of continuing productivity and subject follow-up via Zoom meetings, phone interviews, electronic survey tools, etc.

We will continue to update you as the situation evolves. Please feel free to contact Dr. Rosalind Wright at rosalind.wright@mssm.edu if you have any questions or concerns.