

---

## MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Metro South Health Research Community

**Copies to:** Paul Dall’Alba, Director, Research Development, Metro South Research  
 Sonia Hancock, Manager Research Integrity and Compliance, Metro South Research  
 Metro South Health Executive Directors

**From:** Metro South Research **Contact No:** 07 3443 8065

**Subject:** **COVID-19: Information regarding ongoing research activities occurring within Metro South Health – January 2021**

---

The following information is to provide updated advice to all researchers within the Metro South Health (MSH) research community regarding the undertaking of research activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and the current lockdown period. This advice should be read in conjunction with additional advice released by state and territory Departments of Health, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Clinical Trials Project Reference Group (CTPRG) - [Clinical Trials](#).

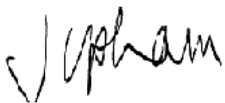
To assist with determining research capacity across the organisation, please review the following key considerations:

<b>Safety: Research Participant and Staff</b>	<p>Health screening of participants should occur before face-to-face interactions to reduce the risk of exposure to those who have been in contact with COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The safety of patients and staff remains the highest priority with social distancing and infection control measures being observed.</li> <li>✓ All research participants are to be encouraged to call in advance of clinic appointments if they feel unwell or have any respiratory symptoms. The principal investigator will need to ensure appropriate follow up is arranged and may advise the patient to present to their GP or other facility for COVID-19 screening.</li> <li>✓ Researchers should not be recruiting participants with flu-like symptoms unless it is part of a COVID-19 specific or a flu study that has appropriate approvals in place.</li> <li>✓ Carefully consider the impact of public health directives on participants if they are in the high-risk categories for COVID-19 (eg participants may not wish to travel to appointments if they are in a high-risk category)</li> <li>✓ If public health directives change, or if the research activity is not successful with COVID-19 limitations, it must be possible to immediately pause research activity.</li> </ul>
---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Consider alternative methods to face-to-face activity are put in place via protocol amendment (eg telehealth, email, posting material etc).</li> <li>✓ During the current lockdown period (6pm, 8 January – 6pm, 11 January) Clinical Research Associates/Monitors are not able to attend for monitoring visits on site. Please contact the Metro South Research office for assistance with establishing remote access to the ieMR where monitoring activity is required.</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical Research Facility (CRF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ At this time, researchers are requested to consider completing critical research activities only within the CRF and postpone non-critical research activities.</li> <li>✓ Please contact the CRF (<a href="mailto:CRF@health.qld.gov.au">CRF@health.qld.gov.au</a>) or contact the CRF Nurse Manager on 3176 8708 for further information.</li> </ul>
<b>Metro South Human Research Ethics Committee (MSHREC) and Metro South Research Governance (MSRGO) Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Whilst the MSHREC and MSRGO continue to work remotely, the office is functioning at full capacity and continues to review and approve new studies as well as process post approval submissions through ERM.</li> <li>✓ Priority review will remain for COVID-19 related submissions including new studies and amendments.</li> </ul>

This advice may be updated periodically, and researchers are encouraged to monitor Queensland Government and MSH websites for further COVID-19 requirements.

Yours sincerely



Professor John Upham  
**Chair, Metro South Research**  
08/01/2021