

# MEMO

**DATE:** 14/01/2022

**TO:** Research Teams Working in SHA Facilities or Requiring Access to SHA Resources

**FROM:** Elan Paluck, Director of Research

**RE:** Guidance for Researchers Requiring SHA Resources/Support During the Pandemic

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## **New Research:**

- The SHA Research Ethics Board continues to review new applications (including amendments and renewals for open studies). Due to the increased number of submissions, there will be a delay in review times. Review of studies deemed essential and/or related to COVID-19 response will be prioritized. Clinician researchers are asked to exercise their clinical judgement to determine if a study is essential.
- Applications for Operational Approval to Conduct Research in the SHA are being processed in the order they are received. We are prioritizing applications for COVID-19 related research and other essential research in the SHA.

## **Research Currently in Progress:**

- All ambulatory (outpatient) clinic visits for research purposes are to be postponed until further notice. Essential services and urgent patient visits will continue to be accommodated.
- Non-essential research-related laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging procedures will be determined on a case by case basis. Essential procedures are defined as those that would typically ensure the safety of patients who are receiving investigational medication.
- For non-interventional studies, such as those involving surveys or interviews, researchers **must** use phone or virtual communications to avoid in-person interactions and minimize entry into SHA facilities. Ensure all phone or virtual communications are dictated and documented appropriately.
- Contact your Research Ethics Board of record when revised participant consents or consent addendums are required (e.g., when updating privacy requirements upon use of different communication channels), or when protocol deviations need to be reported as per REB guidance.
- SHA reserves the right to suspend research studies at any time should SHA require operational resources to be diverted to the pandemic response.