

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Faculty, Staff, Postdocs and Students involved in research,  
**From:** Dr. Adnan Hyder, Senior Associate Dean for Research, GWSPH  
**Date:** 15 April 2020  
**Subject:** Research and COVID-19 - Reminders

Thank you to all of you for working hard to ensure your research responds to the primary concern for safety during these trying times. By now, most laboratory and human subjects research at the School has either been paused or transitioned to alternative data collection methods that do not require in-person contact with participants. The primary exception is COVID-19 related research which has been accelerated.

With travel restrictions and 'stay at home' orders by DC and the states of Maryland and Virginia, human subjects research activities continue to transition. The University has established guidance for human subjects research corresponding to phases of the COVID-19 pandemic so I urge all of you regularly visit: <https://humanresearch.gwu.edu/covid-19>

As you review your research, try and understand if your study provides high direct benefit to research participants (where you need to be more cautious about human subjects) or low direct benefit to research participants (where you need to be realistic about changes); and work with the GW IRB for any changes. International studies should continue to follow University guidance in addition to local/national guidance in that country; and should also consider any travel restrictions imposed by local or national authorities. The GW IRB can be emailed at: [ohrirb@gwu.edu](mailto:ohrirb@gwu.edu) - and our Office of Research Excellence is open for advice at: [gwsphresearch@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphresearch@gwu.edu).

The University is continually updating resources as studies transition to remote data collection, or navigate IRB amendments, or consider applying for a competitive revision of an existing grant to study COVID-19. Please regularly visit the University OVPR site: <https://sponsoredprojects.gwu.edu/covid-19>.

Please remember to keep reviewing these useful resources:

- OHRP: <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/ohrp-guidance-on-covid-19/index.html>
- NIH: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Once again, thanks to all who are contributing to the research response in this major public health challenge. We also want to recognize those continuing to focus on their vitally important non-COVID-19-related work. Please email us for any advice or question to: [gwsphresearch@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphresearch@gwu.edu). I wish you productive days from your home office.