

To: WVU Health Science Center Clinical Research Investigators and Coordinators

From: Sally L. Hodder MD, Assoc. Vice President, Clinical and Translational Research, WVU HSC

Date: September 16, 2020

**Re: Additional Recommendations for Health Sciences Center Clinical Research**

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the current recommendations related to clinical research with the continued spread of SARS CoV-2 in Monongalia County and provide recommendations to ensure continued safety of research participants and study personnel.

Research activities can continue at this time as long as appropriate measures can be followed to ensure safety of research personnel and participants. Further guidance will be provided if there are any changes that warrant halting certain research activities.

Research visits that are concurrent with clinical visits can be performed as long as measures are in place to ensure safety. It is recommended on-site research-only visits be kept to a minimum where possible. Consideration should be given to delaying or cancelling research visits, **unless** required to ensure participant safety or essential therapy in relation to the study.

As a reminder, remote monitoring visits for clinical trials should be performed, unless there is a critical need for an on-site visit. For on-site visits:

- 1) Monitors should be pre-screened (prior to arrival in Morgantown) for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and, if present, the external monitor is not permitted to conduct the monitoring visit on-site.
- 2) Masks must be worn by all visiting monitors at all times when present in any of the WVU Medicine buildings, the Health Sciences Center, and on the campus.
- 3) Adequate space to permit appropriate social distancing must be provided for all monitoring visits.
- 4) Areas and equipment used by the external monitors must be meticulously wiped before and after the visit with appropriate disinfectant.
- 5) Monitors are prohibited from any areas where there are known COVID-19 patients. Please ensure that any required tours avoid patient care areas with COVID-19 patients.

Federal, state/local public health and institutional policies (including mask-wearing and screening requirements) should continue to be followed. Refer to the following websites:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Provider-Resources.aspx>

WVU Coronavirus website: <https://coronavirus.wvu.edu/>

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shelley Welch or Tanya Moran, Co-Directors, Clinical Trials Center of Excellence.

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