



Clinical Research During the Omicron COVID-19 Wave – message from the Vice Dean for Clinical Investigation

January 6th, 2022

Dear School of Medicine Clinical Research Community:

During this newest COVID-19 surge, our people and our health system are under considerable stress. We recognize we are in a dynamic situation and are closely monitoring the impact on clinical research.

Our experience over the past two years and your hard work have prepared us well to safely continue clinical research during the current surge, recognizing the need to navigate limited resources and staff. We trust that you will be able to leverage flexibilities incorporated as part of the restart process.

We have this guidance:

- Please think carefully about in-person participant study interactions and, when possible, conduct research interactions remotely.
- For researchers using clinical resources (e.g., imaging) for their studies, please be mindful of the high current demand for clinical resources to provide patient care. We recommend you prioritize current study participants and carefully consider the services needed to support new participants.
- Reminders for research teams:
 - Continue to screen all participants by phone using the [COVID-19 symptom screener](#) before any in-person interactions. Even mild symptoms should be taken seriously.
 - Ensure all study participants wear [face masks](#).
 - Study team members interacting in-person with study participants must wear [masks and eye-protection](#) (e.g., face-shield) and must follow HEIC clinical [guidelines](#).
 - Study team members with signs or symptoms that may be consistent with COVID-19 must contact the [JHCCC](#) and follow recommendations for testing, and, if infected, for isolation and return to [work](#).
 - We strongly recommend that research team members receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

We will be routinely meeting with departmental liaisons to monitor research needs. Any new updates impacting research can be accessed on the [Johns Hopkins Medicine Clinical Research](#) website.

We believe our clinical research community is well-equipped to meet the challenges of the current COVID-19 surge and we look forward to continuing to support you.

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