

ENHT COVID19 Research Update 02 dated 17th March 2020

Purpose: This guidance provides additional information following on from the previous Research Update 01 issued 12th March 2020.

Background information: The guidance has been updated in light of the Trust Gold Command Bulletins (click [here](#)), the Research and Development Business Continuity Plan (click [here](#)) and guidance produced by the Department for Health and Social Care (click [here](#)).

Decision making: The Trust is managing the COVID 19 response in accordance with the Major Incident Plan. This is based around planning at three different levels:

- **Gold Command** – this sets out the strategic direction of the organisation and communicates via Gold Command Bulletins. Research is represented by Dr Michael Chilvers (Medical Director).
- **Silver Command** - this formulates the tactics to be adopted by the Research & Development Division to achieve the strategic direction set by Gold Command. It is led by Prof Phillip Smith (Associate Director Research & Development) and Profs Marcia Hall and Diana Gorog (Clinical leads for Research) and Rishma Bhatti (Research and Development Manager). Daily cross site teleconferences are held at 3:30pm.
- **Bronze Command** – this provides the main operational response to an incident and implements the tactics defined by Silver 'tactical' Control.
 - **Bronze Command Lister** – (Phillip Smith, Diana Gorog, Anita Holme, Jenny Godwin, Carina Cruz, Claire Barratt).
 - **Bronze Command Mount Vernon Cancer Centre** – (Rishma Bhatti, Marcia Hall, Julia Duncan, Katrina Mindel, Lucy Collins).
- **ENHT COVID19 Research Updates** are issued to communicate tactics and operational response.

General Approach:

- 1) We support our staff to fully implement the UK government response to COVID-19 (click [here](#)) and this includes measures to ensure that colleagues can protect themselves and others.
- 2) Nationally-sponsored COVID-19 research activity is prioritised.
- 3) The provision of staff and facilities to support frontline care is a priority and this may mean a pause for some research studies for public health reasons as staff are redeployed.
- 4) Clinical trials or other research studies should continue if discontinuing them will have significant detrimental effects on the ongoing care of individual participants involved in those studies. These are clinical decisions which will need to be made on a case-by-case basis taking into account local risk and capacity assessments.

Actions applicable to all staff

- 1) Continue to **access your nhs.net email** for Gold Command Bulletins and ENHT COVID19 Research Updates. You can do this at work or via a public access web portal (search online).
- 2) If you can access the COVID-19 Information for staff updates on [The Knowledge Centre](#) then do so at least daily.
- 3) If you are involved with any COVID 19 study then please treat this as a priority.
- 4) **Principal Investigators** and relevant research teams to follow Sponsor guidance in relation to the conduct of studies. Clinical trials or other research studies should continue if discontinuing them will have significant detrimental effects on the ongoing care of individual participants involved in those studies.
- 5) **Principal Investigators** to discuss with their team and decide if they wish to pause or suspend recruitment to some or all of their studies. All decisions relating to the conduct of research need to follow the relevant Health Research Authority guidance (check [website](#) for latest) and send an update to researchanddevelopment.enh-tr@nhs.net so that a central record can be kept.
- 6) Continue to **prepare for redeployment** (such as fit testing and refresher training) to support other areas, under the direction of your line manager. All requests for staff to be redeployment should be sent to researchanddevelopment.enh-tr@nhs.net so that it can be reviewed by Bronze Command. No redeployment is allowed without prior approval. Recharging arrangements to be agreed.
- 7) **If you are absent** for any reason then please inform your line manager using your usual route and also by email to researchanddevelopment.enh-tr@nhs.net Please keep in touch with your line manager as you usually would.
- 8) **If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 symptoms** i.e. a new continuous cough or high temperature (over 37.8°C) then please inform your line manager using your usual route and send an email to researchanddevelopment.enh-tr@nhs.net Please also contact Health at Work tel 01438 28 6514 Mon-Fri 08:00-16:30.
- 9) **If you are self-isolating and have no symptoms** then please check for updates via your personal nhs.net email if you can via the public access web portal If you receive any research-related emails then please forward them to the relevant generic email account. The current advice is that you should only do more than this if you have a Trust laptop due to the need for encryption of patient and Trust information.

As always we thank you for your ongoing professionalism, co-operation and passion in supporting research in this exceptional challenging time we find ourselves in, none of this would be possible without you.

With best wishes



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