

March 18, 2020

To: CHA Research Community  
From: CHA Institutional Review Board

Dear Colleagues,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are providing the following guidance for the CHA research community:

- Please consider whether your study protocol needs to be modified in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to eliminate an apparent **immediate hazard to a subject or to research team members** (e.g., in-person interviews that are supposed to occur this week).
  - If this applies to your research, please notify the IRB office as soon as possible, and include a description of and rationale for the proposed modification to the protocol.
  - You may implement these necessary changes immediately, without IRB review. (Although the IRB may respond to your request with further guidance/direction.)
  - Modifications that fall under this category must be submitted to the IRB office for review within 4 weeks of the date on which the unreviewed change was implemented.
- When in-person research activities are required for research purposes, please consult the CDC's guidance regarding appropriate precautions:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

If a modification to your study protocol is necessary in response to the COVID-19 virus, but **the change is not necessary to eliminate an apparent immediate hazard to a subject**, the modification must be reviewed by the IRB **before** any change may take place.

Please contact the IRB Manager, Michelle Ewahi, with any questions at [mewahi@challiance.org](mailto:mewahi@challiance.org).

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