

BRIEFING NOTE:

Consent Declaration for COVID-19 research studies

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The Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC) is acutely aware of the serious health risks and immediate challenges that are associated with COVID-19.

The HRCDC recognises that health research studies on COVID-19 are a matter of national and international importance and are urgently required to provide a full understanding of the novel coronavirus and to fast track development of vaccines, diagnostics and treatments. That is also the view of the Department of Health.

Accordingly, in order to facilitate and expediate research studies in COVID-19 related research areas that may require a consent declaration, the HRCDC wish to advise researchers that it is putting in place arrangements to enable it to consider applications as a matter of urgency and to make decisions on those applications as quickly as possible.

**Applications relating to COVID-19 do not have to wait until a scheduled HRCDC, but will be dealt with as above.**

If it is considered by researchers that a consent declaration may be required for urgent COVID-19 research studies, researchers are advised to immediately contact the Secretariat who will work with applicants to facilitate an expedited review by the HRCDC;

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