

BRIEFING NOTE: Updated 11th April 2020

**Seeking a Consent Declaration and Ethical Approval for COVID-19 related research -
An integrated review process between the HRCDC and National Research Ethics
Committee for COVID-19-related research.**

As part of Ireland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with a recommendation in the WHO Roadmap for R&D, the Minister for Health has established a temporary COVID-19 National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) to deliver an expedited process for review for all COVID-19-related research studies. Further details can be viewed here; [NREC COVID19](#)

This response by the Department is an important measure to accelerate urgent studies clearly positioned to provide significant evidence for national and global efforts to deal with the virus outbreak.

Importantly, the temporary NREC COVID-19 is designed to include structured and coordinated interaction with other bodies involved in regulation of health research including the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) and the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC). In this way, researchers and sponsors can expect to receive all the necessary decisions from appropriate parties within the same expedited timelines.

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. The HRCDC are pleased to join with the NREC to facilitate this coordinated approach.

Accordingly, for COVID-19 related research studies that require expedited HRCDC consideration for a consent declaration, in addition to an expedited ethics review, researchers are advised to consult with the NREC Secretariat for the further details on the submission process and eligibility criteria: nationaloffice@nrec.ie and [NREC COVID-19 website](#).

All applications should be submitted to nationaloffice@nrec.ie, using the dedicated [application form](#).

All queries relating to the NREC COVID-19 application process and ethical review should be directed to nationaloffice@nrec.ie.

All queries relating to the HRCDC consent declaration process should be directed to the HRCDC at:

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