

Dear Research Participants:

With the COVID-19 pandemic unfolding, UConn and UConn Health are taking all necessary actions to protect research participants, as well as research staff. One key measure, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), is social distancing. Therefore, as of March 18, 2020, non-therapeutic research activities that require in-person interaction with participants have been stopped. This includes but is not limited to in-person survey and interview research, as well as blood draws from healthy volunteers. Patients enrolled in interventional therapeutic drug/device studies (e.g. a clinical trial for cancer treatment) can continue to be seen for research-related visits unless told otherwise by the study team. If you have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, or have been exposed to someone in the past 2 to 14 days who has these symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please call the study contact before coming in for a study visit.

If you have any questions as to whether you should report for a scheduled research visit (or allow a visit to occur in your home if the protocol calls for it), you should call the research team at the number provided in your consent form. Many researchers are currently working from home, but they are checking their voicemail and will respond to your inquiry.

Investigators may be seeking approval to make changes to their research protocol to allow research activities to occur by other means such as phone, email, or Skype. Each research team will make this decision individually after giving due consideration to the nature of the research.

General information about symptoms of COVID-19 and how to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic is available from the [CDC website](#) and more specific details about how the UConn and UConn Health are dealing with COVID-19 are available at the [University's website](#).

You will be notified when research visits will resume once a timeframe is determined. In the meantime, please take the necessary precautions to stay safe and be well.