

COVID-19

ETHICS AND RESEARCH

10 KEY POINTS ABOUT RESEARCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

1. We have the ethical duty to conduct rigorous research during the COVID-19 pandemic to better understand the disease and to develop vaccines, treatments and management strategies.

2. Doing research should not compromise one's duty to provide health care.

3. Research with human participants during emergencies must always be done with ethical safeguards.

4. All research involving persons, or their individually identifiable samples or data, must be done with prior approval from an ethics committee.

5. The need to accelerate research during the pandemic does not eliminate the need for rigorous ethics review.

6. Community engagement before starting research is strongly recommended to address local needs and priorities and to obtain community acceptance.

7. Participation in research is voluntary and should be based on informed consent.

8. All samples and data should be collected with people's authorization at the outset to facilitate research during and after the pandemic.

9. During the health emergency all researchers and health authorities have the duty to share data and research results to guide decision-making.

10. All of us can contribute by participating in research to find treatments and vaccines and to strengthen the public health response.

