

March 30, 2020

Name

Company

Address 1

Address 2

City, ST 00000-0000

Dear Research Participant,

We know you are concerned about the coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a difficult time for everyone and we don’t want uncertainty around your standing in clinical trials to cause additive stress. The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding MUSC’s current COVID-19 policies and its impact on clinical trials and research participants.

MUSC Health is closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19. We are committed to implementing CDC recommendations for social distancing and as a result will limit clinical study activity. Study teams throughout MUSC are working together to develop plans to conduct study visits remotely. For example, talking to your study doctor by phone or video rather than in-person interaction. You should talk to your study team about remote visit options.

In some instances, a remote visit is not possible and we understand that. If you need to come to MUSC for a study visit, please read the below information as it details new restrictions, policies and what you can expect upon your arrival.

* Before your visit you can expect to hear from your study team regarding your possible risk of infection with coronavirus. This is a preliminary screening step that all study teams are implementing. Please answer their questions truthfully!
* If you are experiencing symptoms or exposure, your planned visit will be postponed. In this event, we ask that you utilize the **MUSC Health Virtual Urgent Care platform**. Here you will be assessed for COVID-19 free of charge using a promo code that can be supplied by your study team. If cleared by MUSC Health Virtual Urgent Care or your healthcare provider, an in-person research visit can then be scheduled.
* The number of entry points into MUSC has been reduced. You can enter through the University Hospital main entrance in the Horseshoe. **171 Ashley Ave, Charleston, SC 29425**
* As of today, \_\_\_\_, all parking garages are still open. Remember, you will need to walk to the University Hospital main entrance to enter.

The entry points for MUSC Health facilities are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **University Hospital** | Adult Emergency Department University Hospital main entrance (Horseshoe) |
| **Storm Eye Institute** | Enter through University Hospital main entrance No public access - Ashley Avenue entrance |
| **Ashley River Tower** | Chest Pain Center door at the valet drop-off ramp Connector entrance from the parking garage No public access - main lobby entrance |
| **University Hospital Extension (former Children's Hospital)** | No public access |
| **Clinical Sciences Building** | No public access |
| **Institute of Psychiatry** | Main entrance |

* All visitors will be screened at tented/covered stations outside the hospital. Visitors and vendors will be asked COVID-19 screening questions before gaining access to any hospital facility. **Remember to bring your ID**, this is will be needed for screening!
* Visitors considered high-risk for COVID-19 exposure or infection will be asked not to enter and advised to access MUSC Health’s Virtual Urgent Care platform.
* MUSC Health has enacted new visitation restrictions that impact research participants. See below for the details.
  + **Adult research participants**: No visitors are allowed! Only you, the research participant, can enter.
  + **Pediatric research participants:** Only two (2) parents, legal guardians or caregivers will be allowed to accompany the research participant. **No other family members outside of the two designated individuals will be permitted.**
* The cafeteria is still open! However, the food choices are limited. If you are not comfortable with utilizing the cafeteria facility, speak to your study team about cafeteria delivery options before your visit.
* Lastly, remember to stay aware of your surroundings when you are in the hospital. The best prevention against COVID-19 is hygiene. MUSC recommends having plenty of hand sanitizer and soap available. Wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds after touching objects and surfaces, and immediately after interacting or shaking hands with others. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. When possible, reduce face-to-face contact with others. This may be accomplished by maintaining 6 feet social distance.

For those of you that are/were interested in participating in a clinical trial, you may be wondering what this means for you. MUSC is limiting the recruitment of new research participants that would require visits on campus. This does not include studies of life-saving therapies or studies specifically for COVID-19. However, study teams continue to work on recruitment activities. If there is a study you are interested in, reach out accordingly. Study teams can continue to supply study information and answer your questions however, screening visits will be postponed until further notice.

These are unprecedented times and with that can come uncertainty and fear. You may rest assuredthat the **safety of participants, faculty, staff, and trainees is our highest priority as we work**to flatten the curve of the pandemic**. If you have any further questions contact your study team.** MUSC will also provide updates to the media every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until further notice.

We thank you for your continued dedication to research!

Sincerely,