
Western Cape Department of Health communique on COVID-19 studies

1. The Health Research Office and the respective Health Research Ethics Committees request all researchers to take note of the following email quoted verbatim below.
2. Also find as a separate document, the DoH WC template titled "Research Summary for Managers" that is required to be completed and attached to the protocol.

URGENT E-mail from Dr V Zweigenthal

"Institutional process for Ethics Approved Covid-19 studies to be conducted on the Western Cape provincial platform

Dear Colleagues

At this time, the Western Cape Department of Health is only considering institutional permissions for Covid-19 related studies.

Besides studies to be conducted at Tygerberg, Groote Schuur and Red Cross hospitals, should researchers from your institutions have ethics approval for the conduct of any studies on the district platform or any provincial facility, the process is to email the proposal through to myself and Dr Moodley. The documents required are as follows:

- a. The Ethics approval letter
- b. Approved protocol, together with a summary of the proposal that explains what the 'ask' on the facilities are (space, time, involvement of provincial staff, equipment etc.)
[- Research Summary Template available on SU HREC COVID-19 website]
- c. The process for the three academic hospitals named are through their processes directly.

Dr Melvin Moodley (Director: Health Impact Assessment) and I will review and obtain the necessary permissions and be in contact with the researchers directly. We trust that this will expedite permissions for research that informs the management of this pandemic.

Best wishes,

Virginia

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