COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF COVID-19 RESEARCH

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An Overview for Community Members

What is research?
- Research is how doctors and scientists learn if and how things work to diagnose, treat, or prevent disease.

Why is research needed?
- Looking at new health conditions or illnesses that affect specific communities is very important. Research can:
  - help doctors and scientists learn if a test or treatment is safe for a particular person,
  - show if ways to prevent COVID-19 (including vaccines) work and are safe to use,
  - show if new ways to test and treat COVID-19 work and are safe to use, and
  - help patients decide which treatment is best for them.

What are the benefits of taking part in research?
- The main benefit of volunteering to take part in COVID-19 research is to **understand the best ways to prevent and treat COVID-19 in people from all backgrounds** and stop the pandemic.
- We need **answers to questions** like how long a vaccine protects against COVID-19 and what side effects might happen with COVID-19 treatments or vaccines?
- By taking part, you can **help stop the pandemic**.
- As a volunteer, you and possibly your family may be able to **access resources** such as medical care, masks, or other items used in the research study. You also may receive money for your time.
- **Study results will be shared** with you and your community.
- **Doctors who care for you or your family can learn** what does and doesn't work for people like you.
- You will **learn about COVID-19** and other health issues.
- You could **learn** new things about **how science works**.
- You can **share what you learn** with family and friends.
- Some people in your community may get **paid to work with the research team**.
- What we learn now will help us **prepare better for future pandemic.**

Why should I or my community take part in COVID-19 research?

- COVID-19 affects some groups more than others. For example, Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and American Indians/Alaska Natives are more affected by COVID-19.
- We need to study **how to prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19** in these groups.
- We also need to learn **how COVID-19 affects people over the long-term**.
- **Not all people respond the same way.** For example, some people might get a fever after getting a vaccine and others might not. So, we need to study both males and females, people of different ages, and with different medical conditions
- Studies also need to **include people in different communities and jobs.** For example, certain groups may be more or less exposed to COVID-19.
- This kind of **research can't be done without volunteers** like you.

How do I know I'll be treated fairly?

- Before a study begins, it is reviewed by a group of independent people to ensure it is appropriate and safe.
- All researchers are trained to make sure that research
  - is safe for people who volunteer to take part,
  - is being done in an ethical way, and
  - moves science forward in a meaningful way.
- There is a separate group of researchers that monitors the study and provides oversight. They make sure volunteers are protected.
- If new information comes out about COVID-19 that might make you change your mind about taking part in the study, the research team will tell you. You can stop taking part at any time and for any reason.
- Each research study has a phone number you can call if you have concerns about how you're treated.