Research during infectious disease outbreaks and pandemic...



Does not hinder in any way the action of care



Is based on scientific evidence and rigorous methodology, generates quality results, avoids false promises.



Requires approvals from Health Authorities and Ethics Committees, with expedited processes for the occasion.



Based on international collaborations, taking into account local priorities.



Ensures community and citizen engagement.



Protects the health personnel involved.



Is based on free and informed consent*.



Ensures a fair selection of research participants, respects a balanced benefit/risk ratio.



Protects the rights of participants, in particular in terms of confidentiality and privacy.



Provides for a transparent plan for sharing data and samples and informs participants in advance.



Commits to share all the knowledge having a decisive impact, as soon as possible (before publication but after validation), and with all actors: international authorities, health authorities, scientific community (*Open access* publications) ... and participants.



Makes available the interventions evaluated as beneficial at the end of the research to the greatest extent possible (if necessary on a compassionate basis) or negotiates for their accessibility.

* Except when data collection related to disease surveillance is performed under a public health mandate or by public health authorities.



To find out more...

Reference Documents:

- "Research in Global Health Emergencies: Ethical Issues", Nuffield Council on Bioethics (2020)
- "Guidance for Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks", OMS (2016)
- "COVID-19 Contribution du Comité Consultatif National d'Ethique : Enjeux éthiques face à une pandémie", (13 mars 2020)
- "International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research involving Humans", CIOMS (2016, guideline 20)
- "Ethical standards for research during public health emergencies: Distilling existing guidance to support COVID-19 R&D", OMS/WHO (2020)

You have a question or need help?

Do not hesitate to contact us Ethics Unit - Institut Pasteur ethics@pasteur.fr

