

WHO Task Force on Good Participatory Practices in Emerging Pathogen research (GPP-EP)

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A joint initiative of the [COVID-19 Research Roadmap Social Sciences Working Group](#),
[Clinical Working Group](#) and [Ethics Working Group](#)

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- “Community engagement is an **essential component** of [COVID-19] research and is important not just for the current moment, but also **to maintain relations of trust between communities and research institutions**. Yet, COVID-19 containment measures have challenged the conduct of community engagement, which traditionally heavily relies on face-to-face interaction.”

Tindana PO, De Vries J and Kamuya D. Ethical challenges in community engagement practices in research during the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]. *AAS Open Res* 2020, 3:23 (<https://doi.org/10.12688/aasopenres.13084.1>)

COVID-19
restrictive
measures
diminished
existing
resources and
techniques;
rapid timelines,
new pathogen,
no known
interventions,
layers of
regional
engagement...
and lock down



Tips and guides

1. Plan and budget accordingly
2. Tap into existing groups and resources
3. Be inclusive, respectful
4. Social media
5. Media – news, tv, radio
6. Find local experts
7. Start early (or start anyway)



WHO R&D Blueprint novel Coronavirus Good Participatory Practice for COVID-19 clinical trials: a toolbox



WHO R&D Blueprint novel Coronavirus Working with Community Advisory Boards for COVID-19 related clinical studies

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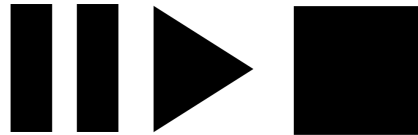


R&D Blueprint
Powering research
to prevent epidemics

Pause & Stop

- Clinical trials faced chaos when an arm was

- Paused
- Started
- Stopped



- Especially since the drug was highly publicized Hydroxychloroquine

- Vaccine trials also have pause & stop protocols
- Large trials will test multiple Vx candidates
- Anticipate rapid response to adverse events
- Designed to stop and remove Vx candidates

You've been paused or stop – what next?

- Communicate
 - What is a DSMB?
- Offer resources
 - “you will continue to receive care for your illness”
- Follow up
- This is normal, planned & an indication that things are working
- Alternative treatment/study
- Could resume or end