



CIRCULAR NO. 3 OF 2020.

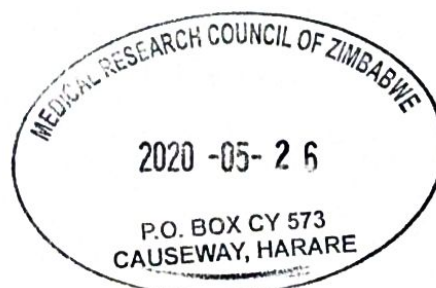
TO: ALL RESEARCHERS
FROM: THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE
DATE: 26 MAY, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The threat of COVID 19 still looms large in Zimbabwe despite the relatively fewer confirmed cases and fatalities recorded to date. Worldwide, almost 5million confirmed cases and over 325 000 deaths have been recorded.

The Zimbabwean government, having declared COVID 19 a formidable epidemic disease in terms of SI 77 of 2020, proceeded to declare a national lockdown in terms of SI 83 of 2020 from the 30th March to 19th April 2020 (subsequently extended twice- 3/05/20 and 17/05/2020). Thereafter, Statutory Instrument 110 of 2020 extended the lockdown indefinitely with fortnightly reviews from 31/05/2020.

The MRCZ will therefore give the following advice to sponsors, researchers, students and health research institutions;

- 1) Guidance as outlined in our previous communication (Circulars Nos 1 and 2 of 2020) will be retained until further notice.
- 2) To proceed with due diligence and comply with all provisions and restrictions as contained in the relaxed conditions of the indefinite lockdown applicable to different sectors (*refer to Statutory Instrument 110 of 2020, produced by Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting*)
- 3) Regulatory compliance must be maintained and where researchers feel screening/recruitment is feasible, they must initiate such activities after consultation.



In cases where health services are being provided as part of the research interventions (e.g. provision of HIV testing, treatment and adherence support; condoms; contraception; STI treatment; general health counselling for the clients, etc we advise due diligence to maintaining safety and IPC procedures as a key priority)

4)The Office remains open for online submissions and all issues needing clarification as previously indicated, please contact responsible officers.

ALWAYS REMEMBER PRIORITY IS TO MINIMISE SPREAD OF INFECTION, AND ALLOCATION OF THE SCARCE MANPOWER AND RESOURCES FOR CARE AND TREATMENT FOR THOSE AFFECTED.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT MRCZ ON THE FOLLOWING:

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