



March 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Our lives have changed, all in a matter of days and weeks. Indeed, COVID-19 is having (or will soon have) a profound impact on each person on this planet. As a network, MTN's mission is, in short, protecting against infection with HIV. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new and daunting challenges in our pursuit of this mission – if only temporarily.

After discussion with MTN leadership and DAIDS we have made the decision to pause all screening and enrollment for all studies. Our overarching goals are to protect the safety of our study participants and site teams during this difficult time. Likewise, we are also obligated to preserve the scientific integrity of our studies as much as possible. Please see the attached document summarizing decisions regarding both our ongoing and planned studies. Additional communication will be sent to protocol teams regarding specific strategies for managing these changes on a study-by-study and site-by-site basis.

As for the longer term, COVID-19 has made anything and everything in our world uncertain, but we are hopeful that DAIDS's commitment to seeing the MTN-034, MTN-042 and MTN-043 trials to their completion still remains.

You may have already received and/or will be receiving similar guidance from other networks. Please reach out to network leadership as a collective with any questions or concerns you may have. Coordination is important, yet we also welcome your feedback as we chart these unknown waters.

Because of our institutional and governmental requests that most people work from home, our administrative, communications, fiscal and regulatory teams as well as our colleagues from FHI 360 and SCHARP are working remotely from our makeshift home offices. Some laboratory staff are working remotely while others are in the laboratory managing samples. In short, we are trying hard to maintain business "as usual" in very unusual circumstances.

We urge you to share this guidance as well as the attached communication from DAIDS and summary table regarding MTN studies with others within and external to your organizations. We will survive this pandemic, which reminds us that global health impacts all of us. We are in this together.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Hillier".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Baeten".

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