

Research during the COVID-19 pandemic

Health research has been vital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT) we are part of the national research effort to prevent, diagnose and treat COVID-19. The research is helping us to learn more about the illness, which people are most at risk, and what treatments benefit those affected. East Lancashire patients and our clinical and research staff have been playing their part by supporting national, high-priority research studies within our hospitals.

For an up to date summary of the COVID-19 research studies taking place at ELHT, please check www.elht.nhs.uk/research/current-studies

Research into other conditions

In accordance with [guidelines](#) from the Department of Health and Social Care and the National Institute for Health Research, we temporarily paused the entry of patients into the research studies that were taking place before the COVID-19 outbreak. This was to keep patients safe and to ensure that members of the research team were available to support clinical services and COVID-19 research.

Restarting research

Our efforts to tackle the pandemic continue but to advance care and treatment for East Lancashire patients across a range of health conditions, we are now restarting the research which was taking place prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. We are working closely with research sponsors to achieve this, and where clinical services are available for us to deliver the research.

Information for researchers and sponsors

The restart of research, which was taking place in the Trust before the COVID-19 pandemic, is happening in a phased approach, in accordance with guidance published in the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) [Restart Framework](#)

Researchers:

Please contact the [Research and Innovation Support Office](#) about the restart of your research. Before deciding to restart your research at the Trust, please ensure:

- The continued viability of the research, including the impact of any amendments to the study protocol
- Whether clinical services are available within the Trust to continue supporting the research
- That all Trust infection control measures can be implemented to ensure the safety of participants and staff

Sponsors:

Please contact the [Research and Innovation Support Office](#):

- For information on our response whilst dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak
- To discuss plans for restarting your research study within the Trust
- To discuss the ongoing management of your study at ELHT
- For advice relating to remote or on-site monitoring visits during the pandemic
- If you'd like any further information about our research