



COVID-19: Key Messages for HIV Community Advisory Groups/Community Members & Stakeholders

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lives and communities globally. In addition to business and school closures and stay at home orders, the pausing of new and ongoing HIV research study enrollment and screening has resulted in a great deal of concern and uncertainty for Community Advisory Groups (CAGs), Community Advisory Boards (CABs), and communities.

As a result of these circumstances, some CABs and communities are looking for resources and support to address stigma, social isolation, and mental health concerns. Ensuring that CABs and communities stay connected, have access to helpful resources, and receive accurate and timely information is critical.

To support and help guide CABs and communities through this difficult time, [Community Partners](#) would like to remind CABs and communities that the Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC) has created a [Resources and information on the COVID-19 pandemic](#) webpage specifically to provide accurate and timely information and updates related to COVID-19. Updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the status of new and ongoing research in the NIH-funded HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks is included on that webpage and can be found [here](#).

Disruptions to research, operations, meetings and other CAB and community activities related to COVID-19 has necessitated implementing new and/or different communication strategies for CABs and communities to stay connected to continue to support HIV and/or TB clinical research. CABs and communities recognize the importance of responding to COVID-19 while also continuing to prioritize and address the issues related to individuals and communities impacted by HIV and/or TB.

As the HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks engage in COVID-19 research, CAB and community members should be ready to provide valuable input into these trials in accord with [Good Participatory Practice Guidelines](#) (GPP) at the network and site level to ensure that community engagement plans are culturally relevant and appropriate for COVID-19 research in their respective communities.

Given the uncertainty and rapid changes in the research landscape as a result of COVID-19, identifying and developing strategies/programs to meet the training and support requirements of CABs, while identifying and addressing challenges to participation in clinical trials remains a priority for Community Partners.

As a cross-network body charged by the Network Leadership and DAIDS to promote effective representation of the many communities within which the National Institutes of Health (NIH) HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks conduct research, Community Partners invites you to share resources, ideas or topics that you feel would benefit CABs and communities. In addition, please feel free to share any questions that you might have for DAIDS and/or Network Leadership regarding COVID-19, HIV and/or TB research. Please send your suggestions, recommendations, thoughts, questions and/or comments [here](#).

We look forward to working together across the networks and appreciate your efforts toward informing and supporting your respective communities.