

FAQs COVID-19 Impact on AHA Research

The American Heart Association (AHA) continues to monitor COVID-19 developments and are following recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Please check back here for additional updates as this situation continues to evolve.

1. Will AHA consider an extension to the end of the AHA award period and/or no-cost extension? Will extensions be granted for awards that are not toward the end of their award period?

No-cost-extensions (NCE) are available, as always. Awards currently on NCE may qualify for additional extensions.

AHA will also allow payment of salaries on grants and fellowships for up to 60 days without pre-approval during periods of work stoppage. Should inability to conduct research exceed 60 days, please contact AHA.

2. Are there considerations for changes in aims or patient recruitment?

If an investigator foresees the aims or patient recruitment goals of a project to be altered, submit a memo with a description of the changes and award-related issues pertaining to COVID-19 to awards@heart.org to be reviewed by AHA award staff.

3. Will report due dates be extended for current awards?

Currently pending deadlines to submit scientific progress reports and patient recruitment/retention reports should proceed in a timely manner. The AHA is not extending these deadlines at this time.

Contact awards@heart.org if submission of upcoming expenditure reports will be impacted by closure and/or reduced staffing of your institutional accounting office.

4. Is AHA considering extending deadlines for upcoming funding opportunities?

AHA's next proposal deadlines for research funding will be in August. Any changes to upcoming deadlines will be announced by July 1.

5. There will likely be some unanticipated costs due to COVID-19, such as establishing virtual methods for seeing patients, shipping medications, testing

patients for COVID-19, etc. How will these cost variances be taken into consideration?

AHA understands there may be some unanticipated costs due to COVID-19 and will work with investigators on a case-by-case basis.

6. Will there be any change in expectations for fellow recruitment, since many institutions might establish hiring freezes?

At this time, AHA's requirements for fellow recruitment are not being altered. AHA will work with investigators on a case-by-case basis.

7. What about expenditures related to cancelled travel?

Non-refundable charges (conference registration, airline ticket, etc.) incurred with the intent to attend a scientific conference that was subsequently cancelled can be charged to an AHA grant.

8. Where can I find information related to potential impact of COVID-19 on my research project?

Please visit [COVID-19 Content: An AHA Compendium](#) of helpful resources for health systems, clinics, care providers, patients and the public.

Suggested Resources:

- Ask the institution where you are employed, as many have developed guidelines and recommendations
- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and its guidance for [Institutes of Higher Education](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- Your local and state public health department

Additional relevant resources:

- [CDC coronavirus \(COVID-19\) site](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Issues Guidance for Conducting Clinical Trials](#)
- [NIH Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website](#)