I AM MAKING DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF A PATIENT WITH COVID-19: Should I consent for them to join a COVID-19 research study?

If you are responsible for making decisions for someone who cannot choose on their own, they may still be able to join a COVID-19 research study.

A research study:
- collects new information about health and disease.
- tries to answer new questions that researchers have.
- needs volunteers to sign up.

Why are there research studies about COVID-19 right now?
COVID-19 is a new disease, so it is important to understand more about:
- How the virus spreads.
- Why some people get very sick, and some people do not.
- Which treatments work best, and if they work for everyone.
- How to prevent new infections.

COVID-19:
- is a new disease caused by a type of virus called coronavirus.
- may cause some people to have symptoms like cough, fever, weakness, muscle and other pains, and breathing problems.
- can be mild, but it can also make some people very sick, and may lead to death.

More can be learned about COVID-19 by joining a research study.

I make healthcare decisions for someone who is too sick to decide. What should I ask the research team before deciding what to do?

- Why is the study being done?
- What will happen if they join the study?
- Could the study help them? Could it help others?
- Could the study cause risks to them?
- Do we have to pay for them to be in the study?
- Will they be paid to be in the study?
- Will their personal and health information be protected?
- How long will the study last?
- Can they leave the study at any time?
- What will happen if they get hurt in the study?
- Who should I call with questions about the study?
- Will study results be made available?

What else should I consider before deciding for someone who is too sick to decide?
- You might consider whether the person for whom you are deciding would want to be in the study or not, and if the study might help them.
- You can talk to people you trust about the research study.
- You can change your mind at any time.

What happens if the person I am deciding for gets well enough to decide?
If a person’s condition improves, they will be asked whether they want to stay in the study. They can choose to continue to take part or leave the study.

Thank you for thinking about COVID-19 research. Please ask the research team ANY questions you have.