

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR ADDED PROCEDURES FOR REDUCING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION RISKS

This information sheet details the procedures and adjustments put in place to reduce risks related to COVID-19 transmission during the experimental procedure. We are following UCL and Government guidelines and will update these procedures regularly as the situation evolves.

We have implemented strict controls and regulations, because your safety, and the safety of the experimenters are our highest priority. Therefore, things may differ from any previous visit you may have made.

After reading this information sheet, you can contact the researchers to ask any questions you may have about participation in the study, and to ask for more information if anything is unclear.

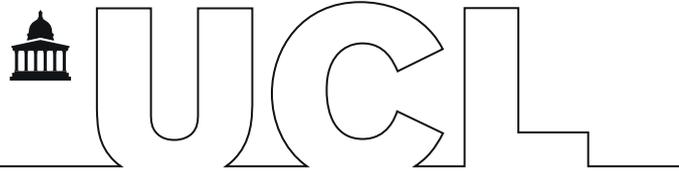
The proposed set of procedures is designed to minimize the known risks of COVID-19 infection, but cannot abolish all risks. We encourage you to consider your participation carefully. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you choose not to participate, you won't incur any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to read and answer a series of consent questions in order to document your agreement to participate.

The purpose of this document: This document should be read together with the Participant Information Sheet detailing the procedures specific to the experiment in which you are participating. Here we will focus on COVID-19 related procedures. The other document will explain procedures specific to the research study.

Personal details: When you sign up to participate in this experiment you will be required to provide your contact details including your address, mobile phone number and email address. We will use this information to contact you for a health screening prior to the experiment. We may also share these details with government officials if contact-tracing becomes necessary, according to current Public Health regulations. This information will be kept secure, adhering to General Data Protection Regulation (2018) requirements and will be safely deleted after an appropriate amount of time (currently 3 weeks after the date of your visit to the lab).

Before your appointment: When scheduling the appointment, we encourage you to consider government advice on non-essential travel: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-high#travel>. Please avoid busy times and routes on public transport, and let us know if you are planning to travel from a zone with a different alert level. We will contact you 24 hours before your appointment to go over the details of your visit and to confirm your current state of health using the NHS COVID-19 symptom questionnaire (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>). If you fall within an at-risk group, as defined by the NHS, or are sharing a household with someone at [greater risk from COVID-19, following NHS criteria](#), we encourage you to consider carefully before participating.

Arrival at the research facility: Please make sure to arrive on time, but no earlier than 5 minutes before the appointment time. This is important to minimize interaction



with other building visitors and to avoid crowding in communal areas. Please see attached a document explaining the current procedures for entering the building.

The usual participant comfort items (e.g. snacks or drinks) will not be available. Please make sure to bring your own water bottle and snacks if needed.

On arrival:

You will be met by the experimenter and briefed with further instructions about building regulations.

You will be provided with a face mask that you will be required to wear during your visit. You can take this off whilst in the scanner if you wish to. All research staff will also wear masks.

Hand sanitizer will be available for you to wash your hands with on arrival and when leaving, as well as whenever you require it. Research staff will also use this to wash their hands regularly during your visit.

During the experiment:

We have adjusted the experimental procedures to minimize face-to-face interaction and maximize social distancing. Therefore:

- It will be important that you stay in the experimental room. You may not roam freely around the building.
- We will ask you to minimize toilet trips by encouraging you to use the toilet before arrival at the building. Toilet facilities remain available at ICN only if urgently required.
- Strict disinfection procedures will be followed before, during, and after the experimental session.
- Instructions and explanation will be delivered by computer or video rather than face-to-face, where possible.
- If the experimenter's presence in your vicinity is required, they will try to position themselves behind you to minimize face-to-face contact and will maintain social distancing where possible.
- Talking will be minimized, focusing on the necessary instructions and answering questions about the procedure. But please do not let this deter you from asking for further information if anything is unclear, or if you have concerns.
- Even when not physically present, the experimenter will be available for the remainder of the session in case you need them. You will always be able to communicate with the experimenter by appropriate means (e.g. video chat, intercom)
- You will be asked not to leave the room unaccompanied. Nevertheless, instructions for exit in case of an emergency will be provided to you in advance.

Your responsibility:

- As part of the informed consent procedures we will be asking you to formally confirm that you understand and will adhere to these regulations.
- You must let us know if you test positive for COVID-19 within 1 week of your visit to the lab, so we can trace and inform any contacts that you may have had during your visit, such as the experimenter(s).

Potential risks:

Immediate risk: The procedures we have set up are designed to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, a certain level of risk is unavoidable. If you fall within an at-risk group, as defined by the NHS, or are sharing a household with an at-risk individual, we encourage you to consider carefully before participating.

Secondary considerations:

- Your contact information will be shared with the Government contact tracing service if required.
- If you choose to travel to and from the site using public transport you must consider the risk of COVID-10 through exposure to other passengers.
- You will be required to wear appropriate PPE for the duration of your visit to the research institute. You may find this uncomfortable.

Please complete this form after you have read the Information Sheet for procedures in place for reducing COVID-19 transmission risk in experiments involving human participants.

If you are happy to take part in the study, we will need you to give your consent. To do this, please read the statements below and tick the appropriate boxes.

		Tick Box
1.	I confirm that I understand that by ticking each box below I am consenting to this element of the study. I understand that it will be assumed that unticked boxes mean that I DO NOT consent to that part of the study. I understand that by not giving consent for any one element, I may be deemed ineligible for the study.	
2.	I confirm that I have read and understood the Information Sheet for procedures in place for reducing COVID-19 transmission risks. I have had an opportunity to consider the information and what will be expected of me. I have also had the opportunity to ask questions which have been answered to my satisfaction.	
3.	<p><u>Personal Information:</u> I understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For purposes of Government-led contact tracing, I will need to supply my mobile phone number, address and email address. These data will be stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) that protects the privacy of personal information. • No one other than the researchers (and authorized government officials, if necessary) will have access to this data. • This data will be securely deleted 3 weeks after the participation date as shown on this form. 	
4.	<u>Right to withdraw:</u> I understand that my participation in this study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw without giving a reason.	
5.	<u>COVID-19 transmission risk:</u> I understand that whilst every reasonable effort is made to reduce COVID-19 transmission risks, the risk cannot be abolished completely.	
6.	<p><u>My responsibility:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I confirm that I will adhere to the instructions detailed above, including those that relate to face covering, hand sanitizing and social distancing. • I understand that my contact details will be shared with Government officials in case contact tracing is necessary. • I will inform the researcher, using the contact details provided to me, in the event that I test positive for COVID-19 within 1 week of today's date. 	
7.	I am aware of who I should contact if I wish to lodge a complaint.	
8.	I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.	