Participant Information Sheet concerning additional COVID-19 procedures

Name, Address and Contact Details of Investigators:

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 additional 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:
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 an at-risk individual, 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, or if appropriate, another face covering that you will be required to wear during your visit.
- You will be required to sanitize your hands regularly as instructed by the experimenter.

**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:

• You will be required to wear appropriate PPE for the duration of your visit to the research institute. You may find this uncomfortable.

• 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-19 through exposure to other passengers.