

## **EEG testing: COVID-19 risk reduction protocol.**

### **This protocol outlines proposed measures aimed at reducing the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission within HG03 between participant(s) and researcher(s).**

This proposed lab testing protocol is based on Luck and Kappenman (2020, *Resources to assist EEG/ERP researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic*) with additional measures specific to the proposed testing in HG03 (Hatchcroft building, Middlesex University campus). The procedures outlined here should be considered dynamic and will be updated to reflect ongoing changes in light government and university policy changes.

**Risk and overview:** In order to conduct EEG testing, electrodes need to be applied to the participants head by a trained researcher, temporarily breaking the 1m social distancing rule. Essentially the experience will be similar to when going to the hairdressers, only shorter, around 10 minutes of preparation time. This document outlines specific measures taken to minimize risk in order to perform EEG testing in HG03. Government and university social distancing rules will be followed at all times with the exception of attaching and removing electrodes, where recommended guidelines (Luck & Kappenman, 2020) will be adhered to. To minimize this risk, the researcher will wear a visor, mask and gloves and the participant will be asked to wear a mask. Hand sanitiser will be made available before, during and after the session. Once electrodes are applied and connected, the participant will be seated in their own testing booth with the door closed, separating them from the researcher. At this point, for participant comfort, they can remove their mask. Communication with the participant will be via an intercom system. Anything that might be touched by the participant or researcher will be discarded or disinfected using a 70% isopropyl solution. Equipment that is to be re-used will be cleaned using recommended COVID-19 disinfecting agents.

### **Additional key points**

#### **Reduced lab usage and occupancy**

The lab is to only be used for testing or testing preparation that cannot be carried out elsewhere.

The lab can only be occupied by 1 researcher and/or 1 participant at a time.

A maximum of 2 testing sessions a day with a minimum 2 hour gap between participants.

Rotation of lab space, allowing a 24 hour gap between usage of preparation areas and surfaces.

Consent forms, information sheets, symptom screening questionnaires, safety checklists and debrief to be distributed and completed electronically and remotely.

## **Safety Screening and Contact Tracing**

Safety screening will be carried out in advance (remotely). No participants will be recruited over the age of 65 and/or those who have health conditions associated with serious complications of COVID-19.

A log of who participates in any research (including time of entry and departure, and contact information) will be maintained and securely stored (GDPR compliant).

Participants will be instructed to contact the lab if they develop a COVID-19 infection after the session (e.g., within 14 days), and lab personnel will contact all subjects and research staff who were in the lab within a short time (e.g., 48 hours) of an infected person and notify university administration.

In the event of a positive COVID test, all involved will need to self-isolate in line with public health England guidelines.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

The preparation and testing area, including equipment such as keyboards, will be cleaned before and after the session.

Electrodes and electrode caps will be soaked in either Perfektan TB disinfecting agent or Envirocide solution for 3 minutes, both are recommended agents for the elimination of SARS-CoV-2.

## **References**

Luck, S. J., & Kappenman, E. S. (2020). Resources to assist EEG/ERP researchers during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Psychophysiology*, *57*(9), e13659-e13659.