

Covid-19 guidelines for research activities

Compliance with the following guidelines is obligatory, from Nov. 3 2020 until further notice, at all research premises of the Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna

The Faculty Management, Nov 2 2020

1. Air circulation

Whenever possible, the entire visit will take place in one room. To ensure air exchange, windows in rooms used for studies are opened as much and long as possible before participants arrive (note: keeping windows open is usually not possible during testing and room temperature has to be taken into account). When the experiment is finished, windows should be re-opened as soon as possible. If there is central air conditioning or other types of ventilation, they should stay switched on as much as possible to ensure constant air exchange.

2. Experimenters

When experimenters come from outside, they will first disinfect their hands with a hand sanitizer. The experimenters will also disinfect their hands regularly throughout the testing session. Experimenters will keep a minimum of 1 m distance to each other and wear a protective mouth-nose mask at all times. They should keep the windows and the door of the lab open for air circulation as much as possible. After they greet the participants outside of the building or the specific research lab, they will guide participants to the specific research lab. Participants are required to put on a mouth-nose mask to cover mouth and nose. Masks should either comply with medical standards (if disposable ones), or if “home” or commercially made from fabric have (at least) two layers of fabric. Experimenters will clean/disinfect their masks (or: discard disposable masks) regularly (if possible after each testing session), but at least every 3-4 hours, but depending on moisture penetration also earlier.

3. Participants

When called for an appointment, participants will be asked if a. they or anyone in their close network had any Covid-19 symptoms during the last 14 days, b. whether they had contact with someone with a confirmed infection, or c. whether they have stayed in or transited an area for which an official travel warning (stage 5 or 6) exists. If the answer is positive, they will not be invited to the lab. In this call, participants will be informed about the safety measures and will be asked if they agree on wearing a

mouth-nose mask during the preparation procedures. In the lab, they will sign a confirmation sheet indicating that they comply with points a. to c.. They will also be asked to inform us in case they observe symptoms in the week following their visit. Participants will be informed that their name and date of testing will be recorded for contact tracing in case of an infection in the contact documentation list of the respective research group or Department.

Participants will be picked up from the entrance of the respective building or research unit in which the research takes place at the appointed time. They will be offered and required to use hand sanitizers before their entrance to the research premises. They are required to either wear their own mask or get a disposable one from the experimenter, with standards and regular changes as outlined above.

In case of physiological measures, such as fNIRS and EEG, the experimenter will be wearing masks during the preparation procedure. Single-use gloves are strongly recommended as well. Only during this time, the 1 m distance rule will be suspended for an as short as possible period of time. The gloves used during the application procedure will be disposed immediately after the preparation.

After completion of a session, the sensors, detectors and other cables that are used during the procedure will be disinfected. Caps will be washed in warm water using a mild soap or hygienic product and disinfected with a disinfection spray after each experiment.

4. Distance

At least one meter distance between people in the room will be maintained at all times except during fNIRS and EEG application procedures (see above). In the lab, there will be areas designated for experimenters and participants. Areas will be marked with a partition wall and color tapes on the ground. If possible, plexi-glass walls will be installed for separation. Wearing a mouth-nose mask is required whenever the 1 m distance cannot be maintained and there is no plexiglas separation between experimenter and participant.

5. Cleaning/disinfecting post experiment

Disinfect participant area; Electrodes, sensors, detectors and other equipment will be disinfected, as well as keyboards, tables, pens, all the materials that were touched by participants. All fabrics used (towels, masks, cloths) are washed at at least 60° C after each use (or replaced by disposable ones).