



BEHAVIOURAL TESTING GUIDELINES

Update as at 18 June 2020

1. Background

These guidelines have been produced for members of the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development in conducting authorised behavioural face-to-face (f2f) experiments under 'Stage 1' approval.

This refers to studies with internal MARCS Institute members as participants, and excludes any testing with participants external to Research Institutes (including general community members, vulnerable populations, WSU undergraduate students etc.).

2. Researcher Responsibilities

Before the scheduled session:

- i. Researchers should ensure that all participants have submitted the [Participant Health and Travel Check](#) form or checked that they have not responded 'yes' to the following questions at least 2 days prior to scheduled session:
 - 1) Are you unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms?
 - 2) Have you been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
 - 3) Have you been directed by NSW Health or a medical practitioner to isolate?
- i. Researchers should outline the testing procedure and how cleaning is managed for each testing session.
- ii. It is the responsibility of researchers to ensure adequate supply of sanitisers for the duration of testing to be used for themselves and the participant. Researchers should notify [Karen McConachie](#) (Bankstown) or [Rachelle McVittie](#) (Werrington South) if additional supplies are required.
- iii. Researchers must follow all relevant lab protocols designated by the Research Program Leader / Lab Leader.
- iv. If not using a bookable lab space, researchers are to ensure that testing areas and surrounding spaces will not breach maximum capacity limits as per the 4sqm rule.
- v. When possible, participants must be pre-briefed online and arrive at appointment time to avoid unnecessary contact such as spending time in waiting rooms.

During lab visit of participant (prior to experiment):

- i. Participants should spend as little time as possible in the lab.
- ii. The researcher must remind the participant about Participant Guidelines (see Section 3) concerning infection control and clearly outline the expected behaviour in the lab: where participants need to disinfect hands, where they should sit, put their belongings etc.
- vi. All individuals should wash their hands before and after behavioural testing sessions if access to a washing basin is possible, alternatively hand sanitisers should be prepared.
- vii. Physical distancing (at least 1.5m) must be maintained when greeting the participant.
- viii. Avoid handshaking and other physical contact, including touching one's own face.
- ix. High touch surfaces and equipment must be disinfected using 70% isopropyl alcohol **before** and **after** each participant is tested (e.g. door handles, light switches, benches, laboratory equipment and instruments, keyboards and computer mouse, headphones, microphones, chairs and stools).

During the experiment:

- x. When possible, the experimenter should exit the testing room after the instructions have been given and the experimental task is running.
- ii. When possible, minimise the number of items or surfaces that need to be touched (e.g., if possible obtain informed consent without using a pen – avoid shared stationary where possible).

3. Participant Guidelines

Researchers should advise participants to:

- i. Not attend scheduled session if presenting symptoms.
- ii. Reschedule if they respond affirmative to [Participant Health and Travel Check](#) questions.
- iii. Arrive on time so that they minimise the waiting period prior to the appointment.
- iv. Maintain physical distancing (at least 1.5m) between themselves and the experimenter.
- v. Wash hands on arrival and outline expected behaviour while in the lab, including: where participants need to disinfect hands, where they should sit, put their belongings etc.