

Return to research – Autumn 2021

Caroline Floccia and Anthony Mee

Please see below the health and safety guidance for research in the School of Psychology ([Link](#)) from September 2021.

- 1. Inviting participants.** When setting up a study on SONA, the researcher should include the following information: (1) whether or not a mask is required; (2) instructions on when to arrive (on time) to avoid clustering; (3) how the experimental room will be cleaned to ensure safety; (4) whether there is a particular risk associated with this experiment (e.g. close contact, lack of ventilation, multiple participants). At the time of consent, the participant will be given a description of the [risk mitigation procedure](#). If mask-wearing is specified on the Experiment description (on SONA) then both the experimenter and the participant must wear a mask for the duration of the study. If one person does not wish to wear a mask, they should not sign up for studies where mask wearing is required. Online and other alternatives will be available so that students can get their points.
- 2. Room occupancy.** Because of ventilation issues, all small cubicles in Link 105, including those that accommodate up to 3 people, must not have more than one person at a time. It means we halve the testing capacity of Link 105 but we will re-evaluate later in the year when considering demand. Similarly, the non-ventilated observation room will not have more than 2 people at once. The two specialist labs (101 and 213) where close contact is needed for an extended period of time (for electrophysiological measures) require a higher protection level for staff (mask and gloves). As a general rule, room occupancy should not exceed what is strictly necessary to run a study, or to train students. All the other rooms which have ventilation provided by windows can run at full capacity, provided that occupancy is reduced to the minimum required to run studies and provide training. A plan of rooms in Link can be found on the Tech Office home site on the 'Link Building Tab' on the [Tech Office Team Home Page](#).
- 3. Duration of sessions:** Time spent in research rooms should be reduced to a minimum, especially training sessions, to minimise contact time. Additional time should be scheduled between participants to allow time for cleaning/disinfecting and to ensure that one participant does not arrive before the previous participant has left
- 4. Mask wearing and other protections:** Mask wearing is strongly recommended at all times for staff and participants during research activities (unless exemptions). For the two labs that require close contact with participants (101 and 213), a higher level of protection for staff is required (masks and gloves).

5. **Cleaning:** In each room/corridors, sanitizing equipment is available. Unless stipulated otherwise by the researcher (in case of sensitive material for example), participants are required to clean their work station before leaving the room. However, there will be no more need for tech office to open doors in advance, and the key card system will be re-established (and sanitizer provided at the counter).
6. **Signage:** On each door in Link, an indication of maximum room capacity and a reminder to wear a mask if possible. Scattered at strategic places, signs nicely reminding people to keep social distancing, wait in a non-busy area, and come back later.