

MultiLing's Socio-Cognitive Laboratory

Lab guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic



1. Access to the lab

The following groups of researchers are prioritized with respect to lab access during the Covid-19 pandemic:

1. MultiLing Postdocs with externally financed projects ending in 2020
2. MultiLing Ph.D.s and Postdocs with lab-based projects
3. MultiLing projects that have already hired temporary staff to do lab-testing in 2020
4. Other lab-based projects at MultiLing

All researchers who want to use the lab during the Covid-19 pandemic need to get in touch with the lab manager (contact-lab@iln.uio.no). Researchers or participants who are in a moderate or high risk group for Covid-19 according to official guidelines (<https://helsenorge.no/coronavirus/high-risk-groups>) cannot be granted access to the lab.

2. Infection control

- Try to avoid public transportation to get to the lab and consider walking, cycling or driving instead.
- Do not use the lab if you experience any symptoms that can be Covid-19 related (e.g. coughing, runny nose, fever).
- Avoid physical contact between people and try to keep a distance of 1 to 2 meters.
- Follow general hygiene guidelines, for instance sneezing/coughing in your elbow.
- Use disinfectant/ water and soap to clean your hands *before* and *after* lab use.
- Avoid touching surfaces in the lab, whenever possible.
- If you experience Covid-19 related symptoms *after* lab use and suspect you might have been infectious during your lab visit, you are obligated to inform the lab manager.

3. Researcher's responsibilities

Before lab visit of participant:

- The researcher gets in touch with the lab manager who will inform and train him/her with the new lab procedures and guidelines. The researcher has to fill in a Nettskjema, which includes a declaration that s/he will follow the lab guidelines (<https://nettskiema.no/a/151845>).

- Before scheduling appointments with participants, the researcher sends the potential participant the information for participants (see 4.) This also includes a link to a Nettskjema, which has several objectives:
 1. Assess the participant's individual risk
 2. Assess how the participant intends to travel to the lab and inform about alternatives
 3. Inform the participant about the lab's guidelines
 4. Get a declaration that the participant will follow the lab's guidelines
 - The researcher books ALL lab rooms (i.e. video studio, eye-tracking room, EEG room), not just the one(s) actually used. This is to prevent that many people use the lab at the same time.
 - The researcher is responsible for disinfecting all equipment and surfaces the researcher or participant will likely get in contact with. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Door handles (inside and outside of lab) and cupboard handles
 - Number pad of card reader
 - Table tops
 - Keyboards and touch screens (e.g. control panel of audio-video system)
- The researcher will receive further cleaning instructions from the lab manager.

During lab visit of participant (prior to experiment):

- Participants should spend as little time as possible in the lab. The researcher picks them up outside Hendrik Wergelands hus and escorts them out of the building after testing.
- The researcher reminds the participant about the lab guidelines concerning infection control.
- The researcher instructs the participant as precisely as possible about the expected behavior in the lab: where participants need to disinfect hands, where they should sit, put their belongings etc.

After lab visit of participant:

- The researcher is responsible for disinfecting all equipment and surfaces the researcher or participant have been in contact with. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Door handles (inside and outside of lab) and cupboard handles
 - Number pad of card reader
 - Table tops
 - Keyboards and touch screens (e.g. control panel of audio-video system)
 - *Note:* The EEG caps and electrodes should be cleaned as usual with water and soap. The use of disinfectant damages the equipment.
- **Documentation:** The researcher notes down and stores for 2 weeks the following participant information (name of participant, contact information (e.g. email, phone), day/time of lab visit). This is necessary to be able to inform participants in case any Covid-19 infections related to the lab are discovered. Participants are informed about the storage of their personal data via the Nettskjema they have filled in prior to their lab visit.

4. Information for participants

(The researcher needs to share this information with his/her participants before the lab visit)

- Every potential participant needs to fill in a Nettskjema (English: <https://nettskjema.no/a/151815>, Norwegian: <https://nettskjema.no/a/151982>) including a declaration that the participant will follow the lab's guidelines (egenerklæring).
- Participants who are in a moderate or high risk group for Covid-19 according to official guidelines (<https://helsenorge.no/coronavirus/high-risk-groups>) are not permitted in the lab.
- Participants should avoid public transportation to get to the lab and consider walking, cycling or driving instead.
 - **Cycling:** There are cycle racks in front of Henrik Wergelands hus.
 - **Parking options:** Lab visitors can park in the parking spaces B of the University (<https://www.uio.no/english/about/getting-around/parking/area/index.html>) and get a refund for their expenses from the individual projects.
 - **Take a cab:** Participants also have the option to take a cab to the lab at the project's expense in consultation with the responsible researcher.
- Participants should spend as little time as possible in the lab. The researcher picks them up outside Hendrik Wergelands hus and escorts them out of the building after testing.
- Participants should come alone to the lab, except for participants who need assistance/care such as children.
- Participants need to cancel a scheduled lab appointment if they experience any symptoms that can be Covid-19 related (e.g. coughing, runny nose, fever).
- If participants get Covid-19 related symptoms *after* testing and suspect they might have been infectious during the lab visit, they are obligated to inform the responsible researcher/lab.