Updated Hygiene and Health Protocol
for Participants in Research Studies During the Ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear Study Participant:

We are pleased to welcome you back to the Brain Imaging Center (BIC) after such a long period of limited contact.

As we resume studies at the BIC, it is very important that we do our utmost to safeguard the health of all participants, Institute staff, and other guests. For this reason, we have put together a comprehensive health and hygiene plan, set out below, which is intended to ensure the highest possible level of safety during your visit.

For both your protection and ours, we ask that you read this information sheet carefully and register to participate in a research study only if, on the one hand, you feel that your safety is adequately protected by these health and hygiene measures, and on the other, you are prepared to comply with them.

If you have any questions, please contact us:
by e-mail: bic.studien@ae.mpg.de
by phone: +49 (0)69 8300 479-380 (Monday–Thursday, 9:00–17:00)

General Regulations

The "2G-plus rule" applies: Access to the MEG- and MRI-lab is only permitted in compliance with the 2G-plus rule (vaccinated or recovered + tested or boosted).

We ask that you refrain from visiting the BIC if:

- you feel ill in general, your immune system is weakened due to a previous illness, or if for any other reason you can be considered at risk;
- you are experiencing cold- or flu-like symptoms or other symptoms that could indicate infection by the novel coronavirus (SARS CoV-2), including fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath or other respiratory ailments, severe headache, fatigue, or loss of sense of smell or taste; the same applies if a member of your household is exhibiting such symptoms;
you have had contact in the last 14 days with any person with a confirmed coronavirus infection;

- you have spent time in the last 14 days in any area designated a risk area by the Robert Koch Institute;
- you are subject to an official quarantine or are required to isolate at home.

During your visit, we ask that you observe the following general health and hygiene measures:

- Please wear a FFP2 mask while participating in your study. This will be provided to you by Institute staff. Visitors to the clinic are required to wear a face mask at all times in all areas of the building, including the lavatories.
- Even while wearing a FFP2 mask it is important to maintain social distancing. Please always keep a distance of at least 1.5 meters from others. This applies in the corridors and lavatories as well.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap for at least 20 seconds or use the hand sanitizer provided at stations throughout the building.
- Observe sneezing and coughing etiquette (see: https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html).
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Reduce loud talking to a minimum. Speaking loudly can produce numerous, potentially virus-laden droplets, which may remain in the air for several minutes. Speaking at a lower volume produces fewer droplets, thus reducing chances of transmission.

Our staff are instructed to ensure that the above measures are observed. Please follow their instructions accordingly.

Collection of Contact and Health Data

In order to ensure the possibility of tracing chains of infection, we are obliged to record your contact data and retain it for four weeks in compliance with data protection regulations. We will record your name, address, and telephone number. This data collection is based on the Corona Contact and Operating Restrictions Ordinance. You will also be asked about possible COVID-19 symptoms so that we know that you are symptom-free. Your data will be erased immediately after the four-week period has ended.
Your Visit to the BIC

As your visit to our laboratories will be somewhat different from what you may have experienced during previous studies, please note the following changes to the procedure:

- Before your appointment: You will receive an invitation from us by email well in advance of your appointment. This invitation letter contains:
  1. information about health and hygiene regulations at the BIC;
  2. information about the study;
  3. declaration of consent for participation in the study;
  4. directions to the laboratories during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We ask that you print out the relevant forms at home if possible, fill them in, and bring them to your appointment. If this is not possible, forms will also be available at the laboratories.

What to Expect During Your Appointment

- We are trying to avoid crowds at the entrance area, so please arrive punctually for your appointment, but no more than 10 minutes before the time indicated in your invitation.
- Please enter the clinic buildings via either Entrance A of Building 95 (for MRI studies) or the main entrance of Building 93 (for MEG studies). Do not use any other entrance.
- For MEG studies: A Corona screening station has been set up in front of the entrance. Please show your invitation to the staff at the screening station and follow their directions in order to be screened.
- Please make sure you are wearing a surgical mask when you enter the clinic premises.
- Hand sanitizer is available in the reception area. Please use it when you enter the clinic.
- A staff member will meet you at the entrance (MEG unit) or in front of the glass door (MRI unit) reception area and take you to the laboratory for your appointment. Please do not shake hands.
- You will be asked to provide evidence in compliance with the 2G-plus rule (vaccinated or recovered + tested or boosted). Please show your proof of vaccination or recovery together with your negative test result and a valid ID document at the reception desk.
- Vaccination: At least 14 days must have passed since the last required dose of the vaccine. With the exception of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 2 doses of vaccines approved for use in the EU must have been administered. (For recovered individuals, one dose of vaccine is sufficient.)
- Recovery: A positive result of a PCR test administered at least 28 days, but not more than six months, before, or an official “proof of recovery”.
- Test: A negative result of a rapid antigen test or PCR test performed by a recognized testing center (no self-testing). Testing must have been performed no more than 24 hours prior to entering the Institute’s premises for rapid antigen tests or 48 hours for PCR tests.
- Booster: A booster vaccination is another vaccination with an EU-approved mRNA vaccine. Individuals with a booster vaccination do not require additional proof of a negative test.

- The staff member will accompany you to the laboratory where the study will take place, all the while maintaining a safe distance. Everything there will be prepared so that you only need to take a seat. All surfaces will have been disinfected before your visit.
- The staff member will provide you with a new FFP2 mask. Please wear this for the duration of your visit. During the study, this mask may be removed if necessary. You will be informed accordingly.
- The staff member will hand you a contact tracing form. This form will be stored securely for four weeks, after which it will be destroyed.
- During the study, the staff member will be in a neighboring room, but will be available to you at all times via an intercom system.
- Once you have completed the study, the staff member will give you an envelope containing your compensation.
- After completion of the study a staff member will accompany you to the exit.

Please Note the Following:

- Inasmuch as preparation for an MRI or MEG makes it impossible to maintain a strict social distance of 1.5 meters between study participants and staff, we aim to reduce preparation time and direct contact to the very minimum.
- Our staff members must wear a FFP2 mask, a smock, and gloves at all times in order to protect your safety.
- Especially while preparing an MRI or MEG for you, staff members will limit their verbal communication to answering any questions you may have.
We thank you for your continued interest and support. Despite the circumstances, we look forward to your visit and participation in our research studies! If you have any questions, please contact us:

by e-mail  bic.studien@ae.mpg.de

by phone:  +49 (0)69 8300 479-380
            (Monday–Thursday, 9:00–17:00)