The Wear-It Study
Using Wearable Technologies to Characterise Physical Interactions in Workplaces

Invitation letter for Employers

The **_PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study_** [1] is a UK Government-funded research programme that addresses important questions related to the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (causing COVID-19 disease) in the environment, including in workplaces, transport and other public settings.

**The Wear-It study** [2], part of the PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study, is designed to collect highly detailed data on individuals' physical interactions in the workplace. Willing participants would be asked to wear a small electronic sensor while at work that provides us with data on distance and duration of interactions with other sensors in range. Such sensor can be worn with a lanyard but is small enough to fit in a front pocket if a lanyard can't be used. The data collected will provide evidence to answer questions such as:

- How often, for how long and at what distance do workers interact in different workplaces and sectors?
- How might these patterns be influenced by workplace social distancing policies, other COVID-19 control measures, and workplace design?
- How might the patterns of these interactions be changing during the pandemic?

The wearables are used in combination with static beacons, which label the interactions collected by the wearables with location information. This data will be used to help refine transmission risk models being developed by other researchers in the PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study, improving our understanding of the risks of transmission of the virus and how people interact in different environments.

This knowledge will help government and businesses implement policies that minimise transmission while keeping the economy open. It will also help understand better how to control the spread of other emerging respiratory infectious diseases and be better prepared if one of those was to develop into a pandemic.

Your help is needed – We're looking for offices, food and drink manufacturers, logistics/warehousing sites and workplaces from the broader manufacturing sector willing to take part in this study. If your organisation is willing to take part, then we would seek volunteers from your workforce to wear a device while at work that will collect data on interactions taking place for up to two weeks.

Alternatively, as an employer, you might already be using similar technologies to help maintain social distancing on your sites or to help identify workers who may have come into contact with COVID-19 positive cases. If so, we'd be very grateful if you were willing to discuss the possibility of sharing anonymised contact data with us.

If you think this may be of interest to you, your employer or your workers, please contact the study team for more information at _**wear-it@hse.gov.uk**_

Many thanks for your interest in the Wear-It study.

[1] PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study: https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/covid19-national-project/

[2] Wear-It study: https://bit.ly/3qXpdPI