



The Wear-It Study

Using Wearable Technologies to Characterise Physical Interactions in Workplaces

Frequently Asked Questions for Workers

Q1. Why is my organisation taking part in this research?

Your organisation was asked to take part in this research because they are in a sector of interest to the study. We have no concerns about your organisation or how they are currently managing COVID-19 in your workplace.

Key sectors of interest to this study include food & drink manufacturing, logistics, transport and distribution, broad manufacturing, construction and some office workers. Our interest is for indoor activities where the risk of transmission of the virus is greater, Key sectors are essential to the delivery of critical services needed to maintain the security and economy of the country as well as the health and safety of its population.

Q2. I / my co-workers do not understand or speak English very well. Will I / they be able to take part?

Materials will be translated into other languages if possible. We will have discussed languages with your organisation before asking you to take part, but if you think we have missed something then please contact the research team to discuss. Contact details are at the end of this document.

Q3. If I test positive for COVID-19 during the study, will the data from my device be used to identify any co-workers I came into contact with? Similarly, will I be informed if my device indicates I have come into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19?

No, your individual contact data will not be used in this way. We will not share your individual contact information with other participants, your co-workers, or your employer. If you or a co-worker tests positive, then the usual route of NHS Test and Trace will help to trace close recent contacts and, if necessary, notify them if they must self-isolate.

Q4. Why are the wearable devices not set up to warn me when I am too close to a co-worker?

The aim of this research is to capture how people are currently behaving while at work and how close they get to one another. If the device warning was turned on, then this would change how you act while at work and the data would not present an accurate picture. Also, the device does not know when there are other control measures being used at the time and so the warning could be incorrect. For example, the device would not know if there was a Perspex screen in-between you and your co-worker.

Q5. I don't want to take part, but my co-workers / employer will be able to see that I'm not wearing a device and I'm worried I'll be pressured into taking part.

You do not have to take part in this research. It is entirely voluntary. Your organisation is supportive of the research, which is why they have agreed to take part. But they understand that it is up to the individual worker whether or not you take part. There are no consequences for your organisation, positive or negative, based on whether you choose to take part and so they have no reason to pressurise you. Equally, your co-workers will also be aware that the research is voluntary and there will be no benefit to them if you take part. However, if you feel that you are being pressured into taking part, then please inform the research team who will discuss this with your organisation. This will be done anonymously, and your name or anything else that could identify you will not be mentioned to your organisation. Contact details are at the end of this document.

Q6. I may get too close to co-workers during the study without realising it at the time. Will I get into trouble with my organisation?

Your individual contact data will not be shared with your organisation, so they will not know precisely who met one another. We will provide a summary of the contact data collected to your organisation, but it won't be possible to identify any individuals in this feedback. They will know that a certain number of contacts happened within a particular distance, but they will not know who was involved in those contacts.

Q7. An individual from my workplace will be helping with the research, in terms of providing me with the device and they may be doing the one-hour walk-around described in the information sheet. This means they will know I am taking part in the research and know my device ID. I am concerned that my employer may become aware of this information.

The individual who helps with this research (the 'study champion') will be asked to keep your name and device ID as strictly confidential and not to disclose this to anyone else in the organisation. They will delete this list as soon as they have returned it to the research team at the end of the study. If others in your organisation

see the list, there is little they can do with it. Only the research team at HSE will have access to all the information collected from you during the study. The list connecting device ID and your name will be kept separate from all the other data, and so the device ID will not appear in the dataset analysed by the research team. Your individual data will not be shared with your employer. We will provide a summary of the contact data collected to your organisation, but it won't be possible to identify any individuals in this feedback and this won't contain the device ID.

Q8. I don't want to wear the device around my neck because this will interfere with my work. Is there another way it can be worn?

We advise that the device is tucked in or worn under your clothes to prevent it getting in the way of your work. However, if you still feel this is an issue then we may be able to provide you another way to wear the device, for example, in an arm band or belt. Please contact the research team to discuss the options.

Q9. How do I contact the research team if I have further questions?

If there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information, please contact the research team as below.

Email: Wear-It@hse.gov.uk

Phone: 0203 028 3456

You may also find the Wear-It webpage a useful source of information:

<https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/covid19-national-project/research-themes/approaches-to-evaluate-environmental-transmission-mechanisms-and-controls/the-wear-it-study/>