UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Department of Psychology

COVID and Cognition: How is memory affected during the post-viral period?

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Information Sheet:
Thank you for your interest in our COVID and Cognition study. Before you decide whether or not to participate it is important to understand the purpose of the study, what it involves, and what this means for you.

What is the purpose of this study? This study is designed to examine how infection with COVID-19 affects individuals cognitively during the weeks and months following the initial illness. COVID is an illness that affects people very differently (some have no symptoms; some are very severely ill). Similarly, while some recover quickly, many others experience ongoing "post-viral" symptoms. Given that so little is known about this new illness, it is important for us to understand what the short- and long-term impacts are on those who have suffered infection, both physically and psychologically. This study explores the psychological impacts in terms of cognitive skills such as memory. Some groups appear to be more affected by COVID-19 than others, as such it is also important for us to understand how these short and long-term impacts may relate to individual differences in background (such as ethnicity), medical history (e.g. history of obesity or diabetes) and symptoms experienced. This study will ask for some of this information about you, so we can understand these factors.

What will you be doing in the study? You will be asked to answer some questions about yourself (demographics information such as age and sex) as well as some information about your medical history. We will ask about your experience of COVID-19 (have you had it? If so, what were your symptoms?). Finally, you may be asked to complete some cognitive tasks – these include memory tasks (with words and pictures) and some problem-solving and reasoning tasks. This should take 30-45 minutes.

What does the study involve? You will be answering questions and taking tests through an online platform on your own personal device. Your exact path through the study will depend on your previous or current experience of COVID-19. We are inviting participation both from those that have, and have not, been ill with COVID. If you are currently unwell (i.e. within the first 3

weeks of the illness) we may ask you to answer some questions, then follow up with you in a week or so in order to do the cognitive tests at a later time when you are feeling a little better. If you have never previously had the virus, or had it more than 3 weeks ago, we will ask you to take the cognitive tests on the first session. **We are then hoping to be able to follow up as many participants as possible** so we can understand how the impact of the virus changes over time. We also hope to follow -up with those who had not experienced infection, in the unfortunate event that they catch the virus after completing the initial session. This will allow us to understand how the virus may influence cognition by comparing within an individual before-and-after.

What does this mean in practice? This means that if you have not had COVID-19, and you agree to be followed-up we will send you a short reminder every 2 weeks, asking if you have suffered from COVID-19. If not, we will be back in touch 2 weeks later. Those that have experienced COVID-19 will be followed up every 2-6 weeks to check how you are feeling, and to ask you to complete a repeat set of cognitive tests. These follow-ups will be shorter than the initial session (15-20 minutes)

The cognitive tests themselves are standard assessments that are not diagnostic or any impairment or illness: They simply allow researchers to observe subtle individual differences between people.

Are there any risks to the study? There are no additional risks other than those typically associated with using your personal electronic device. This survey does include questions about topics that some individuals may find triggering such as circumstances surrounding a global pandemic and medical background / symptoms of illness.

Withdrawal: We would like to emphasize that you can withdraw your consent at any time without explanation. You can do this by not completing the tasks or questionnaires. It is possible that we may contact you to make sure you wish to withdraw (rather than there being another problem such as not receiving the emails). You will not be asked to provide an explanation, but simply a confirmation. If you wish to avoid this you can also contact the researchers at campsychresearch@gmail.com to inform them you'd like to withdraw. You can also take part in the initial session (and any subsequent sessions) without this being taken as consent to be follow-up later: we will always ask if its ok to contact you again.

Confidentiality: All participant data will be anonymized. The raw data will be stored on a secure network and only members of the research team will have access to the data. We will be using any personal information you give us in order to undertake this study and the University of Cambridge will act as the data controller for this purpose. The legal basis for using your personal information is to carry out a task (i.e. academic research) in the public interest. We will keep study data for 10 years after the study, in accordance with good research practice.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will delete any personally identifiable data we have. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible. *For further general information about the University of Cambridge's use of your personal data as a participant in a research study, please see https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/research-participant-data.*

What will happen to the study results?

Results from groups of individuals, without any means of identifying the individuals involved, may be presented at conferences and written up in journals. Non-identifiable data may be shared with other researchers or the public as part of collaborations, joint projects or open access.

Will my GP be informed?

Your GP will not be informed of your participation in this study.

Ethical Review of the Study

This project has been reviewed by the Cambridge University Psychology Research Ethics Committee.

Questions If you have any questions relating to this experiment please email campsychresearch@gmail.com where a member of the research team will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also contact our Principal Investigator Lucy Cheke at lgc23@cam.ac.uk. Please put COVIDCOGNITION Study as the subject of the email inquiry.