Debriefing

Thank you for your participation!

Facial processing and facial recognition are both necessary for our daily social interactions. With masks becoming a mandatory part of life, the question arises of how they affect the way we see faces. Facial processing can be separated into many different aspects, two being facial memory and facial perception. Recent studies have found that facial memory seems to be significantly affected by masks. This information, however, does not explain masks effect on perception. Facial perception speaks specifically to the initial processes to depict facial properties. These properties include such things as facial features (eyes, mouth, nose), and individualistic spots that vary from person to person. This experiment wanted to investigate perception and how masks may hinder that within a wide range of populations.

Unlike face memory, we think masks may not hinder facial perception to the extent previously thought. During face perception, people attend mostly to the eye regions of the face. As masks only cover the nose and mouth, it is possible the apparent deficit in face processing may not be due to perception. We hope to answer some of the questions posed, and better understand how masks affect this one aspect of face processing, face perception.

If you require any further information regarding this research project or your participation in the study, you may contact Jamie Cochrane (cochrj1@mcmaster.ca). If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact the McMaster Research Ethics Board (MREB) at 905-525-9140, ext. 23142, or email at ([srebsec@mcmaster.ca](mailto:srebsec@mcmaster.ca)).