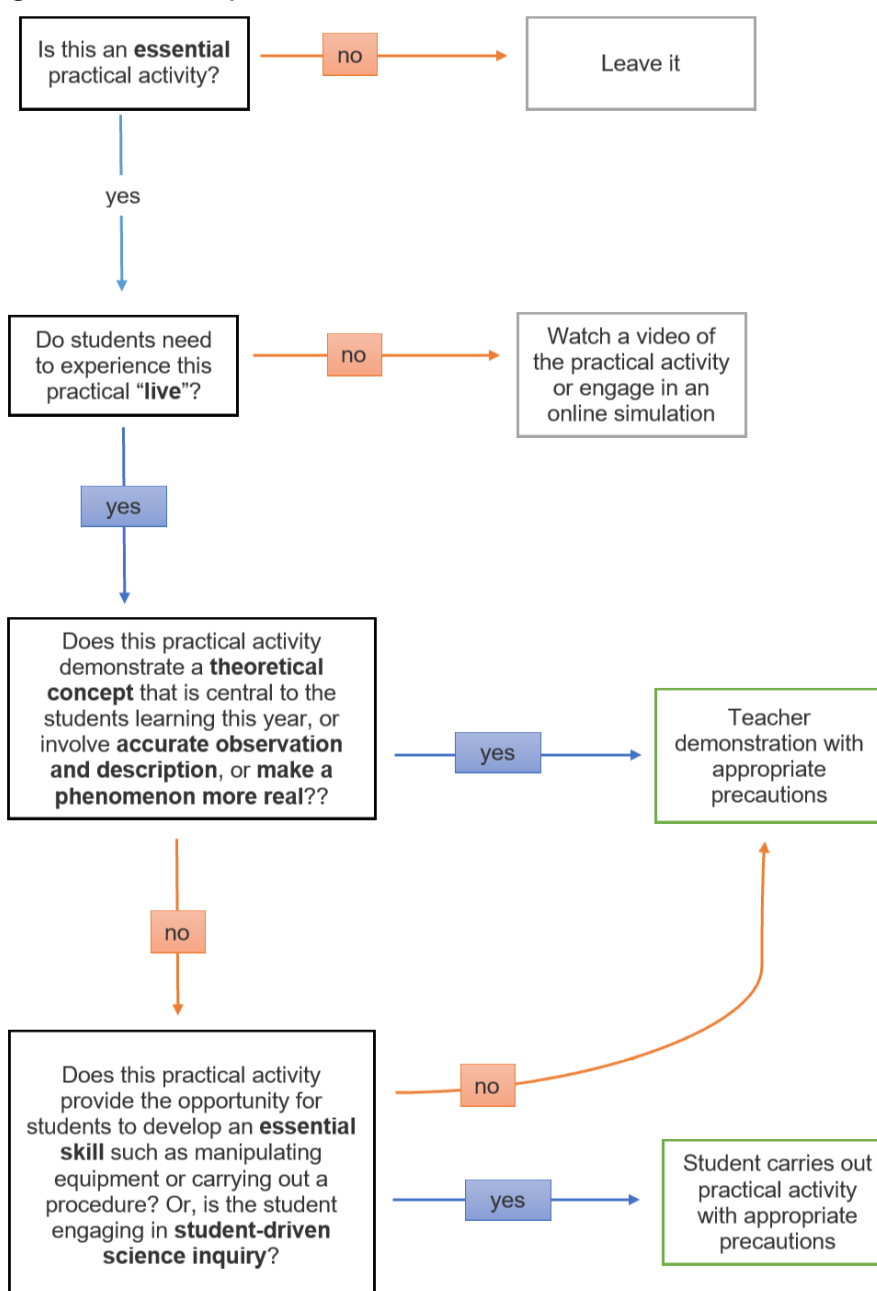


## Aim for **QUALITY** and **SAFETY** over quantity.

- The key aim is to consider measures that can contribute to limiting the exposure to the disease and reduce probability of its transmission amongst students, teachers, technicians, cleaners, and other staff.
- Establish a department plan for personal hygiene, and a disinfection schedule. Revisit this plan and schedule regularly and update, as necessary.
- Consider what essential learning you would like your students to have this year. For seniors, this will involve taking NCEA into consideration (and will depend on school-wide policy, and discussion with students and their whānau). Focus on essential learning, and the associated practical activities.

Decision-making flow chart for practical activities under COVID-19:



## Key considerations

### Teacher demonstrations


- Carry out a risk assessment for the activity and go through the Safe Method of Use (SMU) with students
- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Ensure students wear PPE as appropriate
- Ensure physical distancing and hygiene precautions
- Ensure appropriate cleaning of surfaces and equipment
- Can you demonstrate to small groups of students at a time?
- Can you set up a phone or camera to record and project live to a data projector?

### Student activity

- Carry out a risk assessment for the activity and go through the SMU with students
- Ensure students wear PPE as appropriate
- Ensure physical distancing and hygiene precautions
- Can you rotate students through the practical – e.g. half the class do the practical then the other half?
- Ensure appropriate cleaning of surfaces and equipment

### Technicians

- Carry out a risk assessment for the procedure
- Wear appropriate PPE
- Ensure physical distancing and hygiene precautions
- Ensure appropriate cleaning of surfaces and equipment



**If you're sick  
please stay  
at home**

Image: <https://www.cdhb.health.nz/media-release/if-in-doubt-dont-go-out/>

## Distancing

- Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. In an Alert Level 2 school environment, this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other.
- There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable 1 metre can be used as a guide, particularly between adults.

[\[Managing Health and Safety in Schools at Alert Level 2\]](#)

## Personal hygiene

- Good hygiene practices will continue to be a priority at Alert Level 2 as the best way to minimise potential spread of COVID-19.
- Good hygiene practices include coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. In situations where physical distancing is challenging, or not possible, extra emphasis is needed on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser).
- Some children and young people may choose to wear face masks. It could be part of their cultural practice to do so and to support their hygiene needs. Encourage respect - people are being proactive in keeping themselves and others safe.

[\[Managing Health and Safety in Schools at Alert Level 2\]](#)

- The [COVID-19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) and [Ministry of Health](https://www.health.govt.nz) websites are a good source of information including:
  - [Hand washing](#)
  - [Cough and sneeze etiquette](#)
- Place posters about handwashing in multiple, prominent places; there are a range of these available:
  - NZ Govt: [https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Infection-Prevention/Hand-Hygiene/PR/HowToHandWash-FA\\_web3.pdf](https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Infection-Prevention/Hand-Hygiene/PR/HowToHandWash-FA_web3.pdf)
  - Te reo Māori: [https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HE2251-High%20Five%20A2%20Poster\\_0.pdf](https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HE2251-High%20Five%20A2%20Poster_0.pdf)
  - NZ Govt: <https://covid19.govt.nz/resources/posters/#ways-were-uniting-against-covid-19>
  - CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/keep-calm-wash-your-hands\\_11x17.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/keep-calm-wash-your-hands_11x17.pdf)
  - Global Handwashing Org: <https://globalhandwashing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CoVid19-infographic-final.pdf>
  - WHO: [https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How\\_To\\_HandWash\\_Poster.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How_To_HandWash_Poster.pdf?ua=1)
- Video from Siouxsie Wiles on handwashing:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=5&v=bP\\_HOUbWOF8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=bP_HOUbWOF8&feature=emb_logo)



## Cleaning equipment and surfaces

### Note:

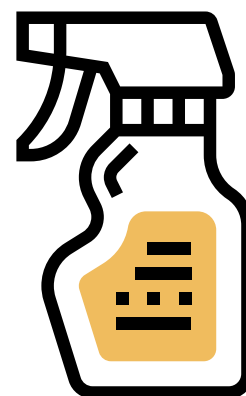
The following advice is specifically in relation to limiting the exposure to COVID-19 and reducing the probability of its transmission.

It is important that usual cleaning of equipment and surfaces in relation to the use of hazardous substances in school laboratories occurs. During the risk assessment process for each practical activity you will identify how to clean equipment and surfaces depending on the nature of the hazardous substances being used. In addition, you should consider any potential reactions between the hazardous substances being used, and substances used to clean and disinfect the equipment and surfaces.

- The only requirement specific to Alert Level 2 is to clean and disinfect surfaces once each day. This requirement is particularly focused towards high-touch surfaces such as door handles, bathroom taps, desktops, handrails, etc. If surfaces look visibly dirty, they should be cleaned first. It's best to use a disinfectant that is antiviral and follow instructions. A bleach/water solution will be appropriate for most surfaces.
- There is no requirement to clean surfaces between uses by different groups. It is suggested that shared equipment is cleaned regularly but there is no requirement to undertake cleaning between each use by different groups or individuals.
- Washing hands before and after using shared equipment remains a priority.
- Here's more information about cleaning surfaces by Siouxsie Wiles - [thespinoff.co.nz](https://thespinoff.co.nz)  
[\[MOE COVID-19 update 14 May\]](#)
- Make sure the specific instructions are followed for the disinfectant being used (e.g. spray and leave on surfaces for 30 seconds before wiping down).
- Ensure the availability of appropriate cleaning supplies (e.g. disinfectant and cloths) for cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
- There is some [information about cleaning surfaces on the COVID-govt.nz website](#) and further information about [minimising the spread of infectious diseases](#) on the Ministry of Health website.

### Disinfectants

- WHO advice:
  - The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it. Clean and disinfect school buildings, classrooms and especially water and sanitation facilities at least once a day, particularly surfaces that are touched by many people (railings, tables, door, and window handles, teaching and learning aids etc.). Use sodium hypochlorite at 0.5% (equivalent 5000ppm) for disinfecting surfaces and 70% ethyl alcohol for disinfection of small items and ensure appropriate equipment for cleaning staff.



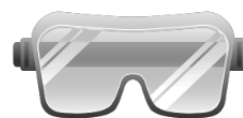
- UNICEF advice:
  - There are many disinfectants that are active against COVID-19. For schools, we recommend the use of commercial detergent with water, to remove dirt, followed by commercial chlorine-based disinfectants, ensuring a concentration equivalent to 0.1% of active chlorine for surfaces and 70% of ethyl alcohol for disinfection of objects.  
[\[https://www.unicef.org/documents/wash-and-infection-prevention-and-control-measures-schools\]](https://www.unicef.org/documents/wash-and-infection-prevention-and-control-measures-schools)
- CDC Guidance for cleaning and disinfection in schools:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

## Cleaning PPE

- It is advisable for teachers and technicians have their own safety goggles and lab coats.

### Safety glasses

- There is no established protocol for cleaning shared safety glasses; however, the recommendation is to follow good general cleaning practices and ensure that good handwashing and hygiene practices are followed.
- [Health Direct](#)
  - Recommend washing safety glasses in a soap/detergent solution, followed by rinsing and air drying. Concerns were raised about 30+ students putting their hands into one tub of soapy water as this would increase the load of contaminants to the water.
  - Discourage the use of other products such as Dettol, Glen20: which may contribute to an allergic reaction in some people, especially given that safety glasses are worn near the eyes. We don't want to create a new problem while we are trying to solve another problem.
  - Suggest other options which include
    - Using alcohol wipes (however this could be expensive and difficult to source)
    - Using 70% alcohol sprays (however there are significant risks associated with the school science setting such as potential open flames, unpredictable and poor student behaviour - The teacher would have to make sure that there are no open flames, hot surfaces, that students are well supervised and it is appropriately stored)



[\[ASSIST advice on decontaminating safety glasses\]](#)

### Lab coats

- It is advisable for teachers and technicians to have their own lab coats and must not be worn outside the laboratory. Hang lab coats up and ensure good handwashing occurs before putting a lab coat on and after removing it.
- If students are doing practical activities that require them to wear lab coats, then consider whether it is really essential for that laboratory activity to be carried out at this time. If it is, then you need to think about policies and procedures to ensure that possible transmission of the virus via lab coats is reduced.
- COVID-19 is spread by droplets and contact with surfaces that infectious droplets have landed on. This means that when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, they may

generate droplets containing the virus. These droplets are too large to stay in the air for long, so they quickly settle on surrounding surfaces.

- COVID-19 can survive on different surfaces for different lengths of time. This is dependent on the surface, temperature, and humidity. Further information on how long the COVID-19 virus can survive for can be found on the [WHO website](#). Check the WHO website regularly for updates.

[[Ministry of Health – Covid 19 Questions and answers](#)]

- Additional advise around washing clothing/textiles that may be useful can be found here: [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.almnet.org/resource/resmgr/document\\_library/ALMCOVID19HomeWashGuidance.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.almnet.org/resource/resmgr/document_library/ALMCOVID19HomeWashGuidance.pdf)

## Gloves

- As for lab coats, it is advisable for teachers and technicians to have their own gloves for particular laboratory activities requiring glove use. Careful handwashing needs to occur before putting gloves on and after removing them.
- If students are doing practical activities that require them to wear gloves, then consider whether it is really essential for that laboratory activity to be carried out at this time. If it is, then disposable gloves should be used, and disposed of appropriately.

## Waste management

- Proper collection, storage, transfer or elimination of waste in schools located in affected areas is important, particularly collecting and elimination of tissues utilised for coughing and sneezing, and used cleaning materials.
- Key actions:
  - Whenever possible, pedal-operated waste collection bins with liners should be available at point of use in schools.
  - In the absence of pedal-operated waste bins, open waste containers are better than those which require physical opening/covering by hands as this will expose students, teachers and non-teaching staff to infection.

[[COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response WASH and Infection Prevention and Control Measures in Schools](#)]

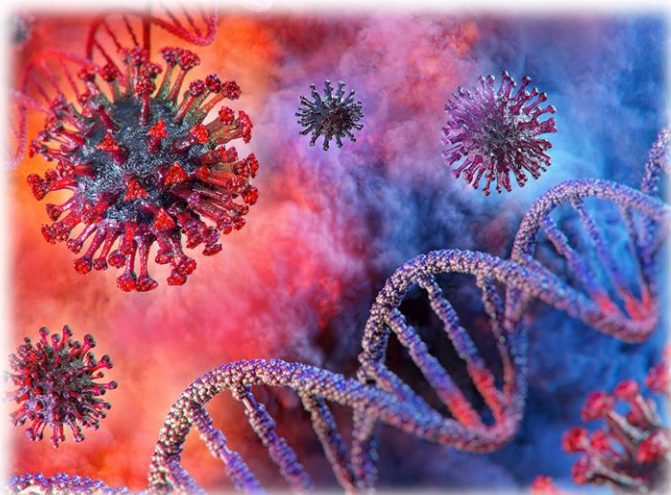


Image: <https://www.bioworld.com/articles/433087-article-headline>

### Note:

- These are guidelines only and we will update them as new information comes to hand
- Use these guidelines alongside your school's policies and procedures
- Check for updated information about COVID-19 from: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; WorkSafe; WHO.