

SHS Covid Secure Risk Assessment: **Science Department and Labs Sept**

RA No:	Severity X Likelihood + Weighting WITHOUT control measures = Risk	S	L	W	R	(S) Severity (L) Likelihood	(W) Weighting (R) Risk	Severity X Likelihood + Weighting WITH control measures = Risk	S	L	W	R
		4	4	5	21				2	2	5	9

Hazard: Transmission of infection

Control measures to reduce the risk:

Practical work:

General:-

- All normal lab safety rules will still apply when practical work is being completed.
- Students in Y7 to Y11 will leave all equipment not needed for the lesson in their form room.
- Students in Y7 to Y11 will be allowed to bring drink bottles into the lab, as long as they are not completing practical work. Extra cleaning of lab bench surfaces throughout the day, where necessary, will reduce normal risks associated with this.
- Y12 and Y13 will hang bags outside the labs on hooks as normal and will NOT be allowed to bring drinks into the room. This is because they can leave drink bottles in rooms and these rooms will not be cleaned during the day as they are being used for the same year group only. This is NOT just for Science lessons but lessons of all subjects being taught in labs.
- Teachers of non-science subjects moving into these rooms to teach, must also follow the same rules as required by Science teaching staff on a daily basis.
- Students should go to the toilet before the specialist lesson using their designated toilet if at all possible. They will only be allowed to go to the toilet when in a specialist room if it is an emergency. If this is the case, students will use the closest toilet to the specialist room. The DFE make it clear that toilets do not need to be individually allocated to a year bubble. Staff will remind students to stay 2m+ away from those in other year groups and to practice good hand hygiene.

Students moving to and from labs:-

- Staff will collect students in Y7 and Y8 from their form room, escort them to the specialist room and accompany them back at the end of the lesson.
- Students in Y9-Y13 will be dismissed from their year group zones at staggered times to move to the specialist room using prescribed outdoor routes. Students in Y9-13 are not to move to specialist rooms through the buildings or through other year group zones. Specialist staff will be at the specialist room to supervise arrival and entry to the room and monitor student movement in their area to ensure social distancing between year groups is observed. Students in Y9-Y13 will be dismissed from the specialist rooms at staggered times and will take the prescribed route back to their year group zone and room.
- Students in lab 7 must enter through lab 8, before those being taught in lab 8 and lab 8 will dismiss before lab7 (route reversed).
- Lab 6 students will be collected and returned by their teacher and therefore will not cross on the stairs as sixth form go to and from R2.

Demos:-

- Teachers will carry out SAFE portable practicals in classrooms. If these are portable by the teacher then they will, but must not unduly add, to the weight of what teachers are already transporting to form rooms or cause teachers to have to balance equipment precariously. Lab technicians will transport equipment to form rooms. There is very little student movement around the school between lessons and so this is safe.
- Teachers are able to carry out demonstrations that are too cumbersome or unsafe to move across the school in labs.
- For these to happen, portable cameras will be used to project the demos onto the screen for the class to see.
- With a 2m distance between students and teachers maintained, this makes practical demo work safe and therefore with the added use of a safety screen, where appropriate, students will not need to wear lab specs.

Class practical:-

Y7 to Y11

- Students will carry out practical work in pairs; one will do the practical and the other take down results. All equipment will be put into a tray and collected from the side. Students will wear gloves to complete the practical and must not touch personal equipment whilst completing the practical.
- Two sterilised pairs of lab specs will be in the tray, if required.
- All equipment will be returned to the tray at the end, including gloves and lab specs. The tray will be returned where it was collected.
- Pairs are sometimes necessary to complete a practical, as more than one pair of hands are needed. This is possible if the practical can be completed side by side, and not facing. In this instance, both students will wear gloves and a third will be needed to take results.

Y12 and Y13 – current recommendations from OFQUAL are that the core practicals must be completed by students.

- These can be carried out in pairs, as Y7 to Y11 above.
- Otherwise, as classes are smaller, students will have a tray of equipment each and complete the practical with their own equipment and wearing gloves.
- If there is not enough equipment for a set each we have several options:
 - Half at the back doing theory and half at the front doing practical – next lesson swap over.
 - As students are using gloves, they can share equipment and rotate during the lesson.
 - Pair work, working side by side only.

Bunsen:

Only sixth form will be allowed to use Bunsens, as they have the necessary experience to use them safely. All practical work will be forward facing and so can be closely monitored from the teacher's position in the room, due to the smaller class numbers.

Fume Cupboards:

Practicals which need the use of a fume cupboard can still be carried out with the use of a camera and the mobile fume cupboard.

Cleaning:

Rooms

- Rooms will be cleaned at the end of the day, within the normal cleaning routine of the school.
- Lessons in labs have been organised, so that there is a free lesson between different year groups to allow time for a sanitising clean.
- Benches will be sanitised with an appropriate cleaner and the paper towels disposed of in the green bin, which will be emptied by the cleaners and dealt with as per government regulations.

Equipment

- Technicians will wear visors and lab coats to protect from infections and heat of water (see below).
- Technicians will wear gloves when collecting equipment trays from the room – trolleys will enable speed of movement.
- All equipment that can be washed will be put into very hot soapy water (above that which can be hand washed), the equipment will be submerged and moved around with a stirring implement. Water will be drained and equipment patted dry.
- The dishwasher can be used for glass equipment, if it contains no biological/chemical waste, and if there is time before it is needed again for a program to run.
- Gloves will be disposed of in the green bin.
- Trays that the equipment has been in will be sprayed and wiped with kitchen roll, which will be placed in the green bin.
- Equipment that cannot be washed will be stored for 48h or 72h if plastic, in the trays it has been in the classroom.
- If trolleys are used to move equipment they will also be antibacterial sprayed and wiped with kitchen roll (put in the green bins) at the end of the day.