

SHS Covid Secure Risk Assessment: **Science Department and Labs** Sept 2021

RA No: 27	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 Y13 will be able to leave all equipment not needed for the lesson in their form room or bring their bags to hang on the pegs outside the labs.
- Students in Y7 to Y13 will not be allowed to bring drink bottles into the lab, they should be left in their bags outside the room.
- The above points do NOT just apply 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. Staff will remind students to maintain an appropriate distance 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, until they are confident to make their own way.
- Students in Y9-Y13 will 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. Students in Y7 to Y11 will queue in the allocated place outside until specialist staff escort them through the room. 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. For Y7 and Y8 this will be the case once they are confident.
- Students in lab 7 must enter through lab 8, before those being taught in lab 8 and lab 8 will dismiss before lab 7 (route reversed).

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 assist in transporting equipment to teaching rooms. As there is more student movement around the school between lessons and consideration of safety will need to be considered.
- Teachers are to carry out demonstrations using the cameras available in labs. 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:-

- Students may carry out small group practical work; they do not need to wear masks but may continue to do so if they would prefer.
- Equipment will not be used across year groups where possible and extra cleaning will be in place where this is not possible. Equipment may be put into a tray and collected from the side for each group where there is a lot of pieces to collect.
- Sterilised pairs of lab specs will be provided, if required.

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 or fixed fume cupboard in the lab.

Cleaning:

Rooms

- Rooms will be cleaned at **lunchtime**, within the normal cleaning routine of the school.
- Benches will be sanitised with an appropriate cleaner and the blue towel disposed of in the bin, which will be emptied by the cleaners.

Equipment

- Technicians will wear **masks/visors when entering highly populated areas.**
- If equipment is to be used by the **same year group**, it will be not need to be cleaned before the next class uses it.
- All equipment that needs to be used **across year groups**, **will be washed/sanitised if possible and considered necessary.**