

Infection Control - Practical guide for classroom teachers

There are some quick and simple measures all staff can adopt, to reduce the spread of infection and illness to maintain a healthy work environment.

Further information is available on the department's [Infection Control Procedures](#) page.

For everyone

- **Stay at home when unwell.** Staff (and students) are expected to stay away from school when unwell.
 - Notify your school leadership if you become unwell during the day and need to go home.
 - Only return to work when you have fully recovered.
- **Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly.** A demonstration video on hand washing is available for staff on the Infection Control resource
 - Maintaining good personal hand hygiene is the single most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission.
 - Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser between providing support to students.
 - Encourage your students and colleagues to implement hand hygiene practices at regular intervals throughout the day.
- **Maintain respiratory hygiene.** Cover your cough or sneeze through coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, disposing of tissues immediately. Always wash your hands after you have coughed, sneezed or blown your nose.
- **Avoid shaking hands when greeting people.**

In your classroom

- **Wipe down high touch surfaces before each class**
 - Before each class, staff and students should wipe down desks and workspaces and the backs of chairs.
- **Clean shared equipment**
 - Shared classroom equipment should be washed with detergent and water or wiped down with a suitable cleaning wipe and air-dried ready for use by the next class.
 - Routine cleaning and maintenance of equipment and tools used in practical classroom lessons, such as science, physical education and sport, art and technology classes, must be in place and followed. A mild detergent and water

should be used and where relevant, or items can be sanitised according to manufactures instructions.

- Shared musical instruments can be cleaned with warm water and detergent. Students should use their own mouthpieces where possible, or if these items are shared, thoroughly clean the items before use with warm water and detergent and an alcohol wipe to disinfect. Where relevant, music equipment can be sanitised according to manufactures instructions.
- **Safe handling of sharps**
 - Sharps instruments used in classroom activities, for example in technical areas, can potentially cause and injury if handled inappropriately. Ensure [protocols](#) are established for the safe use, handling, cleaning and/or disposal of sharp tools and instruments.
 - Wear appropriate clothing and/or PPE to prevent skin penetrating injuries when handling these items. Have established [protocols](#) in place in the event of exposure to blood or bodily fluids as part of any first aid response.
- **Safe handling of food**
 - Food items handled in practical classroom settings must follow [protocols](#) for safe food handling to prevent the spread of bacteria associated with food preparation and food products.
- **Waste Management**
 - Encourage students to dispose of tissues immediately after use into a waste bin.
 - Encourage students not to touch classroom bins (for example if knocked over) and notify your school leadership if bins need emptying more frequently or are not emptied at the end of each day.
- **Avoid sharing personal items**
 - Do not share personal items such as drink bottles and food and discourage the sharing of food items among students.
 - Encourage students not to share personal items through regularly reminders and hygiene based learning activities.
- **Consider the environment**
 - Provide fresh air or ventilation in classrooms. For example, open windows or doors, use air conditioning systems where available.
- **Keep wipes or cleaning supplies handy for use throughout the day**
 - Speak to your school leadership if you need additional cleaning supplies.
- **Establish hand washing routines for your classroom**
 - Remind students to clean their hands before lunch and recess times and as they return to the classroom.
 - Set yourself reminders or establish processes to check the cleanliness and available of cleaning supplies required for your class.