

## Shearing Operations: Protocols in response to COVID-19 – Operations document

**\*\*If you don't feel well, don't risk going to work. Let your employer know you are not well\*\***

### 1. Maintain 1.5 metre distance between personnel at all times

#### Shed staff considerations:

- Travelling separately in vehicles unless the vehicle can allow for 1.5 metre distancing, e.g. bus
- Wool handlers waiting until the shearer is in the catching pen before they pick-up

#### Woolgrower considerations:

- Only using every second shearing stand
- Must have own rooms in camp out jobs (consider utilising other buildings)
- Meals – ensure eating areas can provide 1.5 metre distancing

### 2. Implement and follow strict hygiene regimes

#### Shed staff considerations:

- Wash frequently with soap and water, before and after eating and after using the toilet
- Bring own soap, alcohol-based hand sanitiser and towel
- Don't share cups or water bottles
- Encourage sweat band use and use of own towels – the virus cannot be transmitted from an infected person through sweat alone but can be transmitted through coughing or sneezing.
- Keep gear separated - workers to bring storage bags or tubs for their gear

#### Woolgrower considerations:

- Provide running water (no basins), soap, alcohol-based hand sanitiser and paper towel
- Ensure adequate space in eating rooms to enable 1.5m distancing between staff

### 3. Over-communicate

- **Talk to staff each day**
  - Remind them to practice social distancing and/or isolation each night in suburban jobs – recommend that people don't visit friends and family
  - If they feel unwell do not come to work, or leave work if feeling unwell
  - Don't pressure staff to work - if they are nervous and don't want to work, find alternative workers
- **Contractors & woolgrower communication**
  - Forewarn, accept and manage for lower productivity/higher costs – safety and welfare are prioritised over profits and time
    - Considerations for woolgrowers include:
      - Animal welfare
      - Additional labour costs
  - Plan for several months ahead
  - Plan to be restricted to 'essential shearing only'
  - Encourage communication via phone where possible
  - Essential personnel only – do not allow people that are not essential to the wool harvesting process i.e. visitors, children, etc into the shearing shed, especially older people

### 4. What to do if a someone becomes unwell at work

- Isolate as soon as possible
- Notify relevant people including contractor or woolgrower
- Follow dept of Health procedures: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>