

# Health and Safety Update

Autumn 2020 Edition

Working together for the safety of all

Welcome back. We hope you are all well and safe. In this edition of the H&S Update Newsletter, you will find information regarding a variety of safety topics including Covid 19 information, air conditioning and EVOLVE.... If you have any questions, relating to any article, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the H&S Team on [\\_healthandsafety@slough.gov.uk](mailto:_healthandsafety@slough.gov.uk)

## Coronavirus – Updated government guidance for schools

As you are aware the government has a dedicated website for COVID education guidance which aims to:-

- provide more advice on risk management
- provide clarification on the age requirements related to face coverings on public transport
- confirm revised guidance on cleaning has now been published
- set out the Department for Education will be supporting schools over the summer on communications with staff, parents and pupils
- provide more information about pupils with education, health and care plans
- provide more information about managing contractors and other visitors to schools, including immunisation programmes
- provide clarity some details of the test and trace process
- provide additional advice on staff who are clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable
- expand on use of space and ventilation information

If you would like more information the website is available here;-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-2-school-operations>

As always if you need any support or advice for re-opening schools the health and safety team are available to help

## Slough coronavirus guidance for schools

Slough Borough Council guidance for schools have all been updated to reflect the new government guidance. The documents available as resource are;-

- Educational setting PPE flowchart
- COVID Implementing protective measures for out of school settings Checklist
- Transport settings (involving pupils to educational settings) flowchart
- Health Vulnerability Risk Assessment Educational Setting
- COVID Implementing protective measures for out of school settings Checklist

Following these forms and guidance will ensure a safe working environment within your schools that meets the government guidelines. If you have any questions or need support then contact the health and safety team.

## Public Health England Education Webpages

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

## Contacts....

If you need any H&S advice, please contact any member of the H&S Team on:

[\\_healthandsafety@slough.gov.uk](mailto:_healthandsafety@slough.gov.uk)

**Advisors can be contacted on:**

01753 875046 or 01753 875742

Michael: [Michael.hancock@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.hancock@slough.gov.uk)

Vicki: [Victoria.swift@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.swift@slough.gov.uk)

Robin: [Robin.pringle@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Robin.pringle@slough.gov.uk)

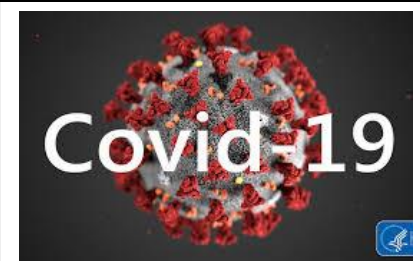
Shameem: [Shameem.din@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Shameem.din@slough.gov.uk)

Gina: [Georgina.watson@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Georgina.watson@slough.gov.uk)

Bhavini: [Bhavini.Ranu@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Bhavini.Ranu@slough.gov.uk)

Our administrator,  
**Chelsea Leigh Green**  
can be contacted on :

[ChelseaLeigh.Green@slough.gov.uk](mailto:ChelseaLeigh.Green@slough.gov.uk)



## COVID-19 CLEAPPS new and updated guidance August 2020

CLEAPPS has provided updated guidance for schools to help with their re-opening. Below is the relevant information and links for further information;-

[GL353 - Guidance for schools where pupils spend all day in a lab \(COVID-19 Pandemic\)](#) (10 Aug 2020)

This is a COVID-19 supplement and should be read in conjunction with our main guide to non-specialist teachers using labs Guide PS082

[GL352 - Managing practical work in non-lab environments \(COVID-19 pandemic\)](#) (10 Aug 2020)

The CLEAPSS Helpline receives a number of calls about the teaching of science practical work in non-lab environments. In the normal running of a school we advise against doing this due to additional requirements

[GL339 Practical activities for pupils at home during extended periods of school closure](#) (10 Aug 2020)

Practical activities for pupils at home during extended periods of school closure

[GL338 - Practical activities for pupils attending school during extended periods of closure](#) (10 Aug 2020)

Practical activities for pupils attending school during extended periods of closure.

[GL336 – CLEAPSS Advice during the COVID-19 / Coronavirus Pandemic](#) (10 Aug 2020)

[GL343 – Guide to doing practical work in a partially reopened school](#) (10 Aug 2020)

[GL345 – Guidance for science departments returning to school after an extended period of closure](#) (10 Aug 2020)

**DT & Art** - guidance for schools regarding working when under 'lockdown' and partial re-opening

[GL344 Guidance on practical work in a partially reopened school in DT](#)

[GL347 returning to school after an extended period of closure](#)

GL343 [/GL343-Guide-to-doing-practical-work-during-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-Science.aspx](#)

**Primary schools** should refer to CLEAPPS [primary website](#) for their guidance on school closures & re-opening.

### School fined after a pupil was severely injured using a band saw

A school in Edinburgh has been fined following an incident where a pupil sustained severe cuts to his middle and index finger on his right hand and serious tendon damage, when using a band saw.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court heard that, in the Construction Design and Technology Workshop at Cargilfield School, Edinburgh, pupils made wooden boxes using a band saw which is classed as a dangerous machine.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the School failed to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks arising out of or in connection with use of the band saw and failed to adequately supervise pupils while they were carrying out tasks using the band saw. The pupil was making a free hand cut on the band saw without adequate workpiece support and was not adequately supervised.

The school pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and was fined £3,350.

#### Recommended Action:

All school should risk assess D&T activities and machinery and ensure that the identified control measures are implemented including pupils being supervised when using the equipment

### Air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak

HSE advises that good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus in the workplace.

It is important to focus on improving general ventilation, preferably through fresh air or mechanical systems.

Where possible, consider ways to maintain and increase the supply of fresh air, for example by opening windows and doors (unless fire doors).

Use this link to find out more

[https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation.htm?utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=coronavirus&utm\\_term=ventilation-1&utm\\_content=digest-11-aug-20](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=ventilation-1&utm_content=digest-11-aug-20)



### CLEAPPS Radiation Protection Supervisor training online course

This 3 hour online course covers the basics of radiation protection in a school setting

The RPS course is intended for teachers. CLEAPSS' position is that the RPS should be a member of the teaching staff, often the Head of Physics. (CLEAPSS leaflet PS075, explains why the RPS (schools) should be a teacher).

To view the full course description please see our website: <http://courses.cleapss.org.uk/Courses/Course-Details.aspx?CourseId=1002074>

Date: Thursday, 1 October 2020

Start Time: 1pm

Finish Time: 4pm

Price: £95 (payment must be received before the course).

This course is delivered using ZOOM. We strongly recommend you test your ability to run Zoom before the course by clicking this link :

<https://zoom.us/test>

## EVOLVE offsite trips

The Government continues to advise against domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits. This advice remains under review <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#educational-visit>

The guidance states schools can now resume non-overnight domestic educational visits. These trips should include any trips for pupils with SEND connected with their preparation for adulthood (for example, workplace visits or travel training). This should be done in line with protective measures, such as keeping children within their consistent group, and the COVID-secure measures in place at the destination. Schools should also make use of outdoor spaces in the local area to support the delivery of the curriculum. As normal, schools should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits to ensure they can be done safely. As part of this risk assessment, schools will need to consider what control measures need to be used and ensure they are aware of wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues. Schools should consult the health and safety guidance on educational visits when considering visits.

In recovering any non-refundable element of an educational visit that can no longer go ahead some schools may be able to make a claim on their insurance and the Financial Conduct Authority have informed us that they would expect Insurance companies to be 'fair and show flexibility in the treatment of their customers, particularly in the way that they respond to claims in the current circumstances'.

Also Schools can find more information on Evolve under National Guidance document 4.4k Coronavirus

Given the above, visits proposed by schools must align with this guidance and continue to ensure full and thorough risk assessments are demonstrated through their Evolve submissions within the 10 day notice period.

For further information please contact the Health and Safety Team\_ [HealthandSafety@slough.gov.uk](mailto:HealthandSafety@slough.gov.uk)

## Lifebuoy Schools Partnership initiative

This initiative is to educate children about the importance of hygiene and encourage them to wash their hands.

What's included in the kit?

- Posters and stickers for ALL registered schools
- Fun educational videos featuring animated characters
- A catchy handwashing song
- Interactive quizzes
- Activity sheets and lesson plans with curricula links for England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
- COMING SOON: A national competition with the chance to win some great prizes for the whole school

Schools can sign up through the National Schools Partnership Link - <https://nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/soaper-heroes/>

## CLEAPPS user name and password has changed

The user name and password to access CLEAPPS services has changed. If you need to access please use the following:-

**Username – mars**

**Password – Rover20**

## CLEAPPS Training - Managing practical work during 2020/21

CLEAPPS have developed a new virtual inset session covering the latest CLEAPSS guidance on how best to manage practical work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 1.5hr training sessions can be run at any time of the day but are ideal for Twilight sessions.

The course will focus on how practicals are possible, and also how to manage issues which are created by the pandemic.

The course is led by those who wrote and manage the CLEAPSS COVID-19 guidance, so it will also provide a greater insight into the reasons behind the latest guidance. It will also include time for a Q&A.

The course costs £250 and will be delivered via Zoom. Each course can have a maximum of 30 participants.

This course is suitable for:

- Science departments (multiple schools may join together to split the cost of a session as long as they do not exceed the maximum number of participants).
- Safety Officers from a Multi Academy Trust or Local Authority
- Heads of Science from Multi Academy Trust or Local Authority



## CLEAPPS to resume science department audits again.

This full day audit covers Health and Safety in all science labs, prep rooms and chemical stores and is followed by a full written report.

The audits will now also feature a check of how the science department is managing practical work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The audit and report cost £950.

For more information please email [science@cleapss.org.uk](mailto:science@cleapss.org.uk)

## CLEAPSS Frequently Asked Questions (extracted from the Appendix of GL343)

### **Can you confirm that this hand sanitiser/wipe/surface disinfectant is suitable?**

CLEAPSS can't confirm the suitability of any particular product. Ensure the product claims to kill 99.99% of viruses and bacteria. Choose products from an established company that can be relied upon to back up their claims with compliance with the appropriate standards.

### **These wipes or disinfectant contains a small amount of alcohol (<10%). Can it be used in the lab?**

In general, use products that are alcohol-free. Some products contain a small amount of alcohol, below the threshold for classification (10%), to help the mixture evaporate after the appropriate contact time. They could be used but, as with all such products, take care to ensure they have evaporated after the required time and the room is well ventilated so any fumes can disperse.

### **Can we use hand sanitisers in place of irrigation in case of skin contact?**

No. Proper irrigation with water, as on the Emergency cards, is required for chemical(s) in the eye or spills on the skin.

### **Why can't we use a cloth to help eye protection to dry after treatment?**

Eye protection is very easily scratched; therefore drying with a cloth could easily damage the eye protection.

### **Our school requires the students to wear face coverings. Is this a fire risk?**

No more than for any other item of clothing, ensure any straps/ties are kept short and tight.

### **What should we do if face coverings become splashed by a chemical?**

Treat as for a chemical spill and exposure to a chemical via skin contact: see Emergency E cards. Ask the casualty to wear gloves, remove the face covering and irrigate their face as appropriate. Treat the face covering then pack it in a plastic bag pending laundering/disposal as per school and/or government advice.

### **If the students wear gloves, can equipment be reused outside their bubble without being quarantined or cleaned meticulously?**

No. Gloves can easily become contaminated: using them effectively, as in medical contexts, is a skill that needs to be learned and it would be too difficult to ensure that students were doing so properly.

### **Can students share playdough?**

Within the same bubble yes, but once it has been used it should be disposed of as it is impossible to meticulously clean or quarantine. We are working on new recipes for making your own playdough.

### **Why can't sterilising solutions be reused so long as we renew it after 24 hours?**

There is a risk that when you put items in the solution, some contamination may accompany it. If you have enough eye protection/equipment to last for the day and use enough solution for them all to be submerged for the required time, you could reduce the number of batches you need to make up.

### **Subject to assessing the risks, can we carry out all activities as before?**

CLEAPSS still advises avoiding a very small number of activities which pose a raised risk of transmitting infection. See section 11 of guide G343 for more information on this.

### **Can we store our quarantined equipment in lab?**

During the 72hrs of quarantining the equipment must be kept out of the reach of pupils, this could be in labs if kept in locked cupboards. There are no special COVID-19 ventilation or other requirements for quarantine storage. However leaving trays of equipment on benches at the back of a lab would not be suitable. Remember the 'normal' storage rules still apply, i.e. dropper bottles of ethanol used by pupils will need to be stored/quarantined in a flammables cabinet.

**Can we use a baby bottle steam sterilising unit to meticulously clean eye protection/goggle/equipment?**

Yes this is possible, though it should be noted that these units are generally very small therefore you will only likely get small numbers of items in them.

**Why does eye protection need to be sanitised between each use? Could we give each student their own?**

Eye protection is in contact with the face, close to the eyes and nose which are prime entry points for viruses. Therefore CLEAPSS advises sanitising it each time. Allocating eye protection to each student is difficult to manage. It would be difficult to organise storage without the risks of cross-contamination. If they take it out of the lab, you don't know what happens to it.

**Why do we need to use such a high concentration of baby-bottle sterilising solution to sanitise eye protection?**

WHO advice is to use a concentration of chlorine-based products of 1,000 ppm avCl for treating surfaces against the risk of COVID-19.

**Our school is planning to run a 'traditional' open evening in October, can we do this safely?**

It is down to the school, and the Local Authority / Multi Academy Trust to set the rules around whole school open evening events. CLEAPSS is working on providing detailed advice over implications for science departments and will update the guidance soon.

**Why is a domestic dishwasher at 75oc not sufficient to disinfect?**

PHE and others have suggested that only dishwashers 'rated to disinfect' are effective. There are three types of dishwasher: domestic, low pressure commercial and high pressure commercial. To disinfect the machine must reach over 120oC, the only machines that can effectively reach this are the high pressure machines, which run at 2.0bar (or greater) and have steam temperatures of over 150oC.

**Can pupils work in pairs or share a bench in Science?**

Yes –However social distancing should be maintained 'wherever possible'. This means that you need to consider what you can do to keep the pupils and staff as far apart as practical within the constraints of your room and facilities. You should aim for 1m minimum for pupils and 2m minimum for staff where you can put in place increased space between pupils and avoid them facing each other, you should do so. You should also minimise the movement around the room and this may mean that you need to consider limiting the number of pupils doing practical work at the same time.

**Cleaning microscope eyepieces is it safe for eyes-concern about eyes coming into contact with disinfectant on eyepiece?**

After wiping, the eyepiece dries quite quickly (pupils could be instructed to wait until the eyepiece has dried before viewing a slide) and it is also very unlikely that the eyeball will come into contact with the eyepiece. Our wipes took about 1.5mins to dry.

**Can pupils in the same bubble share cameras with no cleaning in between?**

In the first instance instruct students to use the digital viewfinder, rather than the eyepiece. As an added precaution get students to wipe the eyepiece with a non-alcohol based sanitiser wipe, before AND after camera is used, just in case they absent-mindedly use the eyepiece although this may not be necessary if students can be trusted to follow instructions. We have used non-alcohol wipes on our camera without any problems, they are also bleach free so won't cause corrosion damage.

**Can we meticulously clean metal equipment in a science oven?**

For equipment which is solely made from metal this is possible, this should be at a temperature of at least 160oc and for at least 30mins.

**Our drains lead into a septic tank, can we use sterilising solutions?**

Sadly due to the sensitive nature of septic tanks, you are not able to pour used solutions of sterilising fluid down your drains. Therefore you should only use quarantining of clean equipment and eye protection / goggles.

**How do we dispose of our disinfecting wipes?**

Follow the instructions for the wipes you are using, as this may vary from brand to brand.