

Infection Control - Practical Guide for Creative Arts

There are some quick and simple measures all staff and students engaging in creative arts need to adopt in their daily practices to reduce the spread of infection and illness and to maintain a healthy working and learning environment.

Further information is available on the Departments Infection Control [page](#).

For everyone

- **Stay at home when unwell.** Staff (and students) are expected to stay away from school when unwell or if they become unwell during the day.
 - Notify your principal 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 [page](#).
 - 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 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 tissue, and then disposing of tissues immediately. Always wash your hands after you have coughed, sneezed or blown your nose.

Equipment cleaning and hygiene

Shared items and equipment must be cleaned before use and at the end of each session. The following hygiene and cleaning requirements are to be followed:

- **Wipe down** shared spaces, dance bars, drama blocks and art equipment regularly
- Costumes should be washed after use where possible
- Students should use their own mouthpieces where possible. Or if these items are shared, thoroughly clean with warm soapy water and an alcohol wipe to disinfect. Dry thoroughly
- Use steri-sprays or alcohol wipes on plastic instruments
Use clean microfibre cloths to dry instruments if adequate drying time can't be allocated (paper towel may be used on the outside of instruments as an alternate option)
- Use isopropyl (rubbing alcohol) to clean plastic, metal and string parts, however, is not be used on fragile or wooden components. Be mindful of varnish or polished/unfinished wooden components on instruments when cleaning. Always conduct a test patch before cleaning the body of each instrument.
- **Wipe down and clean regularly** props, sets, and performance equipment
- Minimise or eliminate the use of equipment for activities for subjects of Dance and Drama. Where shared equipment is used, clean with warm water and detergent after use and dry thoroughly.

Bands, Choirs & Singing

Students should not be participating in singing or band activities when they are unwell. If any of the students or staff are showing any symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fever or runny nose) they should not participate in any activities and arrangements made to send the student home until they are well and symptom free.

Where schools are engaging external providers the school must obtain a signed copy of the [External Visitors to School Site Form](#) upon arrival.

Spatial awareness should be a strong consideration when practising or performing. Physical distancing should be adopted for students playing in bands. Practicing should take place outside or in large spaces where possible. When musical (wind or brass) instruments are used, ensure there is distance or provide physical barriers to minimise the risk of droplet spray. Alternatively use outside where appropriate or tailored ventilation. Students singing in choirs should maintain social distancing. The number of students singing together in one room should be limited where possible.

Singing in an outside environment or in large spaces should be adopted where possible.

A distance of at least 3m from the performers should be maintained for any persons facing the performers (e.g. teacher, conductor, audience)

Dynamic microphones may continue to be used where necessary with a recommended distance from a student/teacher's mouth being 15cms or more.

Drama and Dance

Staff should avoid physical correction techniques in Dance where possible. Approach spaces should be used to minimise contact with other students where possible. Safe dance practice should be considered when planning, and discussed with students when executing practical work to avoid injury.

Group work in Drama may be completed. For Stage 6 Drama, however, please refer to the [Group performance advice \(DOCX 66KB\)](#)

All Stage 6 Creative Arts teachers should be familiar with [NESA's HSC advice for Stage 6 Creative Arts](#).

The Department of Education will continue to review and update this advice consistent with advice from NSW Health. Staff should always refer to on-line resources to ensure they have the most up to date information.