

Contracting Operations: Protocols in response to COVID-19 – Operations document Relating to Dipping, Scanning, Footrot and Lamb Marking operations

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

****COVID vaccination is strongly encouraged for all producers and contracting staff****

****Wear face masks where possible****

****Ensure sign-in procedures are adhered to****

****If you have questions about safe work practices, contact your Safe Work representative in your state****

1. Maintain 1.5 metre distance between personnel at all times

Staff considerations:

- Travelling separately in vehicles unless the vehicle can allow for 1.5 metre distancing, e.g. bus.
- For Lamb marking – Recommend reducing staff to 4 members when using rotary cradle and for the use of Inline cradles recommend spacing of 2 cradles between staff.

Livestock Manager/Contractor considerations:

- Must have own rooms in camp out jobs (consider utilising other buildings)
- Meals – ensure eating areas can provide 1.5 metre distancing
- Provide a work area where the appropriate 1.5 metre separation can be maintained from farm operations.

2. Implement and follow strict hygiene regimes

Staff considerations:

- Wash frequently with soap and water, before and after eating and after using the toilet.
- Staff to bring own gear - soap, alcohol-based hand sanitiser and towel with a storage tub for their own gear.
- 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.

Livestock Manager/ Contractor 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.
- Frequent disinfecting of equipment. Recommend all equipment to be cleaned and soaked in disinfectant during every break.

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 and livestock manager communication
 - Encourage communication via phone or direct personal contact only between the livestock owner/manager and contracting team leader whilst maintaining 1.5 metre distancing. Reducing interaction between contracting staff and farm staff.
 - 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
 - Essential personnel only – do not allow people that are not essential to the contracting site/process i.e. visitors, children, etc into the yards or work area, especially older people

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

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