

Shearing Protocols in response to COVID-19

- Your health & safety is the priority
- Follow Government guidance – 1.5m social distancing requirement
- We expect you to work safely, work safely or don't work at all
- If you are unwell you need to 'stay home'
- Only essential operating personnel in sheds
- Follow strict hygiene - make it your normal routine

What YOU need to do to keep healthy

1. Maintain a 1.5 Meter Distance between each other at all times in the shed and quarters

- Consider that you will need to slow down and be mindful of other people
- Accept lower productivity– your safety & welfare takes precedence over tallys in this environment
- You are under no obligation to continue to work - If you are nervous and don't want to go to work, please talk to us, so we can plan for future work
- You are free to bring your own food if you choose – let us know
- Remember to isolate each night and on the weekends in town – go home, don't visit mates & extended family, no congregating at the quarters for any reason
- Wear gloves or wash hands after you go to the roadhouse on the way to work

2. Practice strict personal hygiene regimes

- Wash frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, smoking and after using the toilet
- Bring your own soap & towel to work
- Don't share cups, water bottles, towels, smokes or shearing gear
- Bring your towels and gear in a bag. Don't fling towels over the seats in the bus. Keep gear separated.
- If you sneeze or cough do it into a towel, alternatively lift your singlet /shirt and place over your nose
- Meals/smokos – ensure you maintain 1.5meter spacing in all eating areas this may mean we have to eat in shifts in the mess
- Absolutely NO spitting anywhere

What WE are doing to keep you healthy

1. Changes to normal shed practice

- Maintain a 1.5m personal distance while travelling, the big buses can provide 1.5m space.
- Staff that reside together may travel together in a private vehicle if they choose, no one else from another residence in a private vehicle.
- Woolhandlers wait until the shearer is in the catching pen before they pick-up
- Woolhandlers not to bend down and remove crutches – use the broom and your foot
- Only using every second shearing stand if there is not a 1.5m distance between stands
- Shearer must wait for roustabouts to clear their stand by 1.5m before they drag out of pen
- Woolhandlers must not press a shearers counter or turn off a stand
- Woolpressers are the only ones to touch the lunchbox and they will lay out the food.
- We are encouraging the growers to communicate with pressers and classers by phone – and not come into the shearing shed, especially older farmers, farm staff and families



- Essential personnel only in the shed. ANY visitors eg. woolbrokers are to report to the woolclasser or the Woolgrower directly and adhere to the 1.5m personal space requirement

2. What WE are doing to keep you healthy – Changes at the Quarters

- Toilets and bathrooms at the quarters will be cleaned and disinfected each day
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected each evening and then locked
- Must have own room in the quarters - no cohabiting or lying on each others beds watching movies
- Soap provided in the bathrooms for hygiene
- Purchased a steam cleaner for the cook to clean and sanitize kitchen areas
- Any clothing left lying around will be binned. It is your responsibility

What YOU need to do if you are unwell

- If you feel unwell, and you have a temperature, sore throat or a cough, stay away from the quarters, let us know and stay home. If you are living in the quarters stay in your room and let us know. We will make arrangements for a safe place for you to isolate.
- Isolate as soon as possible
- If you believe you have been exposed to, or have COVID-19, you should phone the National Coronavirus Helpline (1800 020 080) for advice.
- If you have trouble breathing, phone the local hospital for directions on what to do
- Follow dept of Health procedures

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

What might happen going forward?

- Plan to be restricted to 'essential shearing only' eg. pregnant ewes
- Plan for smaller teams of workers possibly 5 people – the season could be longer than usual because of this
- Plan and save your money incase we get shut down

We will continue to shear on, unless instructed not to by the Federal or State Governments. This is the best way that we can support you and the Woolgrowers through this uncertainty at the moment. If you feel that someone in the workplace is putting you at risk or not taking this seriously please let us know. This includes unnecessary travel to anywhere or not adhering to social distancing.

How is this coronavirus spread?

COVID-19 is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- ❖ Close contact with a person while they are infectious or in the 24 hours before their symptoms appeared
- ❖ Close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes
- ❖ Touching objects or surfaces (such as door handles or tables) contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.
- ❖ Sweat does not contain an infected person's virus