



# Instrumental music program guidelines for managing hazards associated with COVID-19

**Updated 21 January 2022** - to remove reference to the Department of Education's *COVID Planning Framework* only (no longer in use).

These guidelines are intended to assist principals and instrumental music teachers/instructors in schools when considering how they implement their Instrumental Music program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This information is based on current government and medical advice, as well as published COVID-19 research.

## Potential risk

The department implements various risk mitigation strategies to ensure that our schools are safe and the risk of transmitting COVID-19 within schools is reduced.

Queensland Health advise that the risk of transmitting COVID-19 within the school environment is currently very low.





## Considerations for the instrumental music classroom numbers

### *Volume, people, time*

Within the school environment, members of large bands, choirs or ensembles are able to rehearse in the same location (indoors or outdoors) if they ensure that current hygiene management practices are maintained as per this guideline.

Standard precautions are to be implemented as part of normal practice. More information can be found in the [Infection Control Guideline](#).

Physical distancing within a school by students is not required.

External venue performances and rehearsals (including inter-school performances and rehearsals) can be undertaken if the external venue is operating under a COVID Safe Checklist.

## Standard hygiene practice

Implement standard infection control practices as per Infection Control Guideline

### *Hygiene*

- Students and staff to ensure they practice good hygiene measures which includes ensuring they have clean hands, practice appropriate cough etiquette and do not attend if they are unwell.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds **before** and **after** the lesson or ensure use of hand sanitiser upon entry and exit to facility.

#### During activity

Students should play only the instrument allocated to them.  
Students must not share instruments/mouthpieces/reeds or other accessories.







### ***Air flow***

- Teachers may open doors and windows if suitable and available and ensure ventilation system is operating (e.g. ceiling fans).

### ***Physical distancing***

- Physical distancing between students is not required. Ideally, teachers should position themselves alongside the student, not directly in front.

### ***Equipment and cleaning***

- Students must use their own cleaning equipment (i.e. pull-throughs, cleaning rods and cloths), as well as music, pencils and any other item they may require to participate in instrumental music. These items should not be shared.
- Individuals must swab and wipe their instrument after each activity, using their own personal cleaning equipment.
- Students with wind instruments should have their own condensation rag or cloth, which is placed under the instrument while it is being played. The condensation rag should not be handled by anyone else and should be kept by the student in a zip-lock bag or container.

### ***Accessories***

- Students should only use their own accessories, such as neck or seat straps, ligatures and mouthpiece covers, reed containers and protectors, and cork grease.

### ***Cleaning and disinfecting***

- High-touch areas in teaching spaces and storage areas must be wiped down with approved disinfectant on a regular basis. The classroom must be cleaned after each teaching day or rehearsal (as part of regular school cleaning).

As a reminder - **cleaning and disinfecting are two different processes.**



**Cleaning** means to physically remove germs (bacteria and viruses), dirt and grime from surfaces using a detergent and water solution. A detergent is a surfactant designed to break up oil and grease with the use of water.

- Anything labelled as a detergent (e.g. dishwashing liquid, liquid hand soap) will work. Avoid the use of washing powder as this may damage instrument surfaces. Detergents help to loosen germs so that they can be rinsed away with clean water. Allowing the surface to dry once clean, makes it harder for germs to survive or grow.

**Disinfecting** means using chemicals to kill germs (bacteria and viruses) on surfaces. It is important to clean before disinfecting because dirt and grime can reduce the ability of disinfectants to kill germs.

- Disinfectants containing  $\geq 70\%$  alcohol or quaternary ammonium compounds, chlorine bleach or oxygen bleach are suitable for use on hard surfaces (that is, surfaces where any spilt liquid pools and does not soak in). These will be labelled as 'disinfectant' on the packaging.

### ***Cleaning product safety***

- Approved cleaning and disinfectant products are listed as having any of those active ingredients included below. Active ingredients are listed on the product label (front or top of container) and in section 3 of the product safety data sheet (SDS).
- Ensure the active ingredient is compatible with the material being cleaned (Table 1).



Table 1: Approved cleaning products and application to instrument materials.

Product	Suitability of product for use on instrument material						
	Hard rubber	Plastic	Metal (Brass)	Metal (Silver plate)	Synthetic	Wood <sup>^</sup>	String
<b>Cleaning products</b>							
Warm water and liquid hand soap or mild dishwashing detergent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
<b>Disinfectant products</b>							
Alcohol (70%) hand sanitiser (gel*)	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	Unfinished wood only	✓
Isopropyl alcohol (70% alcohol)	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	Unfinished wood only	✓
Disinfectant wipes* (alcohol based) e.g. >70% alcohol	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	Unfinished wood only	✓
Liquid hand sanitiser* (non-alcohol)	Check label	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
Disinfectant wipes <sup>#</sup> (non-alcohol based) e.g. benzalkonium, lactic acid as active ingredient	Check label directions to determine if the active ingredient will damage instrument surfaces						
Disinfectant solution <sup>#</sup> (diluted and applied as per manufacturer instructions)	Check label directions to determine if the active ingredient will damage instrument surfaces						x
<b>Bleach containing products</b>	<b>Not recommended for use on mouthpieces or instruments due to their potential effect on skin, plastics, wood and metals<sup>1</sup></b>						
50:50 water and white vinegar (food grade)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x

<sup>^</sup>For wood instruments, any excess amount of liquid can be damaging. Apply liquids sparingly outside of the mouthpiece area that need to be cleaned.

\* Avoid dispensing liquid directly onto the instrument. Instead apply product to paper towel and then wipe over the instrument. Hand sanitiser products with too many moisturising properties might damage the surface of the instrument, or build up residue over time.

<sup>#</sup> Where non-alcohol based-disinfectant wipes or solutions are used, carefully check the active ingredients (found on the front label) and directions for use before application to ensure they will not damage the instrument surface.

- Obtain and [review](#) the product SDS before purchasing to ensure the product is appropriate and chemical risks can be managed in the workplace:
  - access the SDS from the supplier's website at the time of purchase, the procurement webpage ([hand sanitiser SDS](#) only), or access the SDS from your workplace's [Chemwatch](#) subscription
  - review and apply the safety information in the SDS

<sup>1</sup> NAMMM COVID-19 Instrument Cleaning Guidelines 2020 p4. [https://www.amuse.vic.edu.au/images/www.nfhs.org\\_instrument\\_cleaning\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.amuse.vic.edu.au/images/www.nfhs.org_instrument_cleaning_guidelines.pdf) and <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>





- wear personal protective equipment appropriate to the task as per the SDS.
- refer to the department's [Interpreting Globally Harmonised System \(GHS\) safety data sheets](#) for assistance in understanding chemical safety information.

Sample SDS for products with active ingredients listed in Table 1 are provided below.

**Note that these products are representative only and have been selected from available procurement providers based on ingredient composition** – a relevant product should be selected to meet specific needs.:

- [Pine O Clean Disinfectant Surface Wipes](#) (70% isopropyl alcohol wipes).
- [Accent disinfectant](#) (1-10% benzalkonium chloride and detergent disinfectant)
- [Northfork Liquid Hand Wash](#) (liquid hand soap)
- [Hercules disinfectant wipes](#) (non-alcohol 2-Phenoxyethanol)
- [Cleaning vinegar](#) (non-alcohol, non detergent cleaning agent)
- SDS for a range of hand sanitiser products can be viewed from the OnePortal [COVID-19](#) page.
- Where consumer cleaning and disinfectant products are purchased and used, follow the label instructions for safe use and check that the active ingredient is compatible with the surface being cleaned (Table 1).
  - Note: manufacturers are not required to produce SDS for consumer products. Where sufficient safety information for a product cannot be obtained, do not purchase or use the product.
- After cleaning your instrument:
  - allow instrument to air dry before placing in closed container
  - wash your cleaning cloth and any containers used for cleaning with warm soapy water, rinse and let air dry
  - dispose of consumables (wipes, paper towel etc.) after use on each instrument directly in the bin.

Please refer to the following documents for further information:

- Queensland Health – [Routine cleaning](#)
- SafeWork Australia – [How to clean your workplace](#)
- Department of Education [Infection Control Guideline](#) – pages 22 to 24



- [Managing risks with chemicals in Department workplaces](#) procedure

### ***Instrument cleaning methods***

The level of effort required to clean a musical instrument depends on the instrument type, how often it is played and by whom.

The use of standard hygiene practices e.g. hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette (and not touching the face) are the primary methods of preventing transmission of COVID-19.

Cleaning and disinfection is an additional measure

