



## NZSCA Recommended Operating Procedures to Mitigate the Spread of Covid-19

### Overview

The focus of these operating guidelines is to ensure that the New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association (NZSCA) provides a framework that delivers a safe working environment for shearing teams operating on site to address any issues in relation to the transfer of Covid-19.

These guidelines are also developed to assist farmers on how to prepare and present the woolshed to accommodate shearing teams on site and for shearing contractors to ensure the safe travel to and from the work site for their team members. The safety of NZSCA people is our key priority.

NZSCA expects all members to understand and accept that going to a work site during the lockdown period is not on a business as usual basis. Working on site and the use of these operating procedures can only be implemented and enacted within the lockdown period in cases of real animal welfare need. This is MPI and NZSCA expectation.

Please note these guidelines will be adapted and modified as NZSCA sees fit to ensure compliance with any ongoing and developing Government regulations implemented to address Covid-19.

### Mandatory Procedures and Expectations

Any shearing contractor, employee, farmer or farmer support staff shall not be permitted to go to work or enter the worksite if they show any signs or symptoms of Covid19.

Shearing has been identified by MPI as an **essential service** necessary for animal welfare. All work requested by a famer client to be undertaken by a shearing contractor and shearing teams must comply with this animal welfare mandate.

All shearing sheds will receive a “deep clean” prior to shearing. As the virus can live on a metal and wooden structure a deep clean will address this.

All Shearing Contractors will maintain a register of employees detailing at what farm they have worked at via a tally sheet system to enable clear traceability. They will also maintain a declaration form (a copy will be attached to these guidelines) that employees must sign before commencing work, confirming that employees are fit for work, and have observed

the stay at home rules post any work commitments as outlined in the [Ministry of Health Guidelines](#)

It is expected that Farmers will also confirm to the shearing contractor via a declaration form, that they are fit and healthy and have complied with the [Ministry of Health Guidelines](#) in relation to the stay at home rules and that the work required is deemed necessary from an animal welfare perspective. Farmers are required to present this documentation to the shearing contractor prior to the shearing teams' arrival at the work site.

## **Operating Procedures**

Only essential tasks are to be performed. If tasks can wait, then the client (farmer) will be advised to wait by the shearing contractor.

All Current Best Practice Guidelines are to be followed as per links below recognising that they may evolve further as the Government modifies its responses to any Covid-19 developments.

In addition to the current best practice guidelines, all New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association members have been given, and will be following, the below guidelines, information and procedures:

### **1. Travel (in addition to Travel Best Practice Guidelines)**

- 1.1. Contractors will minimise van overloading - contractors are to supply extra vehicles or employees are to take their own.
  - 1.1.1 All vehicles including employees' cars will be disinfected and cleaned prior to all travel to and from the workplace.
  - 1.1.2 Social distance practices to be observed at all times by all team members and contractors in all vehicles.

### **2. Food**

- 2.1. Farmers and or cooks are to follow all Ministry of Health [guidelines](#)

### **3. Shearing Quarters**

- 3.1. Quarters setup and management are to follow all Ministry of Health [guidelines](#)
- 3.2. All staff to follow Ministry of Health guidelines for [personal health and social distancing](#) at all times.
- 3.3. An isolation space is to be identified within the shearing quarters to place any person who is feeling unwell and appropriate social distancing rules are to apply for any movement of that individual off site.

### **4. Shearing Shed**

- 4.1. Farmers will be required to disinfect all worksites prior to a shearing team's arrival and have ample soaps and disinfectants available for use.
- 4.2. All team members and contractors are to observe all personal health and social distance guidelines at all times during rest breaks on the worksite.

- 4.3. Farmers, farmer support staff and personnel are to minimise contact with the shearing team and adhere to all social distancing guidelines as outlined by the Ministry of Health.
- 4.4. Non-essential personnel will not be permitted on the worksite.
- 4.5. All staff will provide their own handpiece, brooms and work tools etc. Please ensure all brooms used comply with 2-metre distance requirements.
- 4.6. All shearing contractor employers will supply all handwashing and PPE for their employees own personal use.
- 4.7. All selected stands will adhere to the 2-metre social distancing rule. In practice this may see a 7-stand become a 3-stand and a 4-stand become a 2-stand.
- 4.8. Shed hands are to wait until the shearer enters the catching pen to retrieve the fleece and process these 2 metres away from the shearer.
- 4.9. Shed hands or classers are always to place the fleece in a predetermined area for collection by the presser adhering to the 2-metre rule from all staff.
- 4.10. Presser, sheepo or farmer will fill the catching pens only when the shearer is on the shearing board shearing their sheep, again observing all social distance obligations.
- 4.11. Where possible, the shearing contractor is advised to run an A and B shearing team group to mitigate the risk of transfer of Covid-19 within the broader sharing team.