

# Safe Nursery Operations Under COVID-19 Level 4 Response

NZ Plant Producers Inc

[www.nzppi.co.nz](http://www.nzppi.co.nz)

The following guidelines are intended to assist you to implement a management system for COVID-19 in your nursery business under COVID Level 4 response.

**Table of Risks for COVID-19 in Nurseries**

TASK	WHAT CAN HAPPEN	MEASURES
Plant health, irrigation and crop maintenance	Close proximity of workers Sharing equipment Contaminated surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-meter distance between workers.</li> <li>• Use gloves when handling equipment.</li> <li>• Disinfect shared equipment.</li> <li>• Disinfect touch surfaces.</li> </ul>
EQUIPMENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN	MEASURES
Secateurs, knives, saws, etc.	Shared equipment may transfer the virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean equipment to enable it to be sanitised.</li> <li>• Assign equipment to individuals, without sharing.</li> <li>• Sanitise equipment before and after use.</li> <li>• Store, or hang equipment in open areas with good airflow and high light conditions.</li> </ul>
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	Shared vehicles etc increase cross contamination. High touch surfaces in vehicles, like handlebars, brakes, levers and steering wheels may be a way of spreading the virus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash hands when entering and exiting vehicles and handling machinery and equipment</li> <li>• Spray high touch surfaces with alcohol-based sanitiser before, during (hourly) and after use.</li> </ul>
Phones, radio telephones (RT), tablets & devices, etc	Shared electronic equipment may transfer the virus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid sharing phones.</li> <li>• Sanitise RT equipment, tablets devices etc, regularly and before and after use.</li> </ul>

INFRASTRUCTURE	WHAT CAN HAPPEN	MEASURES
Lunchrooms	Crowded lunchrooms don't enable distancing and increase the risk of unintentional contact and touching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stagger breaks and lunchtimes.</li> <li>• Set up alternative lunch areas in sheds or open areas.</li> </ul>
	Contaminated benches, food surfaces and tables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement food hygiene practices, cleaning and sanitising food surfaces.</li> <li>• Manage shared utensils, cups, plates, etc.</li> </ul>
Greenhouses, sheds, benches, trolleys	<p>Work surfaces</p> <p>Hard surfaces</p> <p>The COVID-19 virus can remain on metal surfaces for up to 36 hours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify shared surfaces, and high touch surfaces. Ensure that these are sanitised between uses.</li> </ul>

### Hygiene measures

Basic hygiene measures are the most important way to stop the spread of infections, including COVID-19. Basic hygiene measures include:

- hand hygiene – that is, washing hands regularly with soap and water, or cleansing with hand sanitiser.
- staying at home if you are sick.
- coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your elbow and then performing hand hygiene.
- cleaning surfaces regularly.

## About Coronavirus – COVID-19

### How is COVID-19 spread?

The main way COVID-19 spreads is through contact with respiratory droplets from an infected person rather than through the air. COVID-19 can survive on surfaces; therefore, people can catch the virus by touching infected surfaces then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

### What to do if you develop symptoms

COVID-19 symptoms include a fever of 38°C or more, fatigue, a dry cough and shortness of breath. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should stay at home and seek medical advice by calling their GP or Healthline on **0800 358 5453**.

### Self-Isolation

Your team should understand what self-isolation means and when it is necessary.

**If you self-isolate**, you should register with the Ministry of Health by calling the Healthline on **0800 358 5453**.

### Resources

Read more about COVID-19 Alert Levels here

<https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/>

For up-to-date advice from the Ministry of Health go to

<https://covid19.govt.nz> or phone 0800 358 5453.

New Zealand Ministry of Health

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covida-novel-coronavirus>

New Zealand Food Safety Science & Research Centre

<https://www.nzfssrc.org.nz/node/154>

Employment New Zealand

<https://www.employment.govt.nz/about/news-and-updates/workplace-response-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Business.govt

<https://www.business.govt.nz/news/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>

World Health Organisation

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

United Fresh New Zealand Inc.

<https://www.unitedfresh.co.nz/technical-advisory-group/covid-19>