



Covid-Secure Workshops

More Equipment. More Cleaning. More Individualised Learning.

Thinkers in Education (TiE) are delighted to still be able to offer your students a wide range of practical science, technology and engineering activities through our range of Covid-Secure Workshops.

This is only possible because we provide enough equipment to allow for individual use in a workshop, will allow the time to thoroughly sterilise equipment between workshops and have taken additional safety precautions to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 above and beyond those detailed in the government guidance.

Most importantly, we will thoroughly discuss the safety measures, grouping strategies and the use of school zones/regions within your specific school before you host a workshop. It allows us to adapt our strategies to best meet your requirements and minimises the risks of spreading coronavirus.

We aim to give you the greatest confidence that hosting our Covid-Secure Workshops for term-time, weekend or holiday STEM events will be easy, effective and safe. All of the workshops marked by a Covid-Secure stamp in this ebrochure have been redesigned for delivery during the Coronavirus Pandemic and will help with catch-up learning, advancement and motivation.

You can read through the additional precautions we have implemented to best achieve a Covid-Secure workshop for participants on the following pages. We hope these will help you to understand the logistics upon which our solutions to the ongoing situation have been based.

Updated 15/10/20



TiE Guidelines for Safer Workshops During Covid-19

The UK Government's coronavirus guidelines allow supply teachers and other temporary staff to move between schools. Thinkers in Education (TiE) presentation teams will strictly adhere to your specific safety procedures to reduce any added transmission risk of Covid-19 to an absolute minimum.

In addition, we have detailed below the changes in our Workshop Planning & Logistics, Teaching & Delivery Style and Activity Design & Resource Usage designed to minimise the added risk to your staff, students and their families when attending our Covid-Secure Workshops.

PREVENTION

Workshop Planning & Logistics

Thinkers in Education (TiE) will follow the safety procedures and behaviours determined by the host establishment AND in addition:

- 1) TiE will never knowingly send team members to your school who are suspected of having Covid-19. We will symptom check and monitor the temperature of each team member in the days leading up to the workshop, with a final check on the morning before arrival at your establishment. TiE will cancel or reschedule workshops (at no cost to the hosting establishment) should symptoms develop within this period of time.
- 2) To reduce the risk of transference between host establishments TiE presentation teams will wait at least 3 days after delivering workshops in one establishment before working in another. In addition, TiE teams will not travel to or from any region in Tier 3 (Very High) and will rearrange/cancel any affected workshops at no cost to the hosting establishment. TiE will contact hosts to discuss options if the hosting establishment is in a higher or lower tier region to the TiE team assigned to deliver the workshop.
- 3) If possible the TiE team should work in just one location within the host establishment but we will happily discuss options to best meet your requirements. Our teams will clean frequently touched surfaces using suitable detergents and bleach. Additional time may need to be allowed for extra cleaning (before and after any group changes) if more than one workshop session is delivered in the same day. This will be built into your workshop plan at the time of booking - based on your school time-table and our discussions together.

4) Students and staff should arrive at workshops having cleaned their hands in line with your school procedures. TiE will also place additional hand sanitisers around the venue to allow participants to sanitise their hands upon entering and exiting the workshop or between practical activities as required.

5) Weekend and holiday workshops delivered in a school venue are best delivered in a large enough room that allows participants to use separate tables (standard classroom desks or exam tables) or share large enough work surfaces to work 2 metres apart. A maximum of 30 students (split into two zones for up to 15 people per zone) are permitted within the same venue. A hall or gym space is recommended. Room layout suggestions will be provided. Movement around the room will be limited during the sessions and where possible all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units.

6) School-day workshops are best delivered as described in point 5 (above) where possible but a TiE representative will happily discuss the use of a classroom/lab as a venue. We will endeavour to use the table layout or seating plans designed by your establishment and use the venue facilities in the same manner as in the day-to-day running of the school. This is only possible if the participating group is of the school's regular class-size during the pandemic. However, we may need additional tables to use as equipment collection points. If group sizes are larger than regular class sizes we request the facilities described in point 5 (above) to be made available.

Teaching & Delivery Style

7) All team-building, group work and peer learning activities have been replaced in Thinkers in Education (TiE) workshops with Covid-Secure alternatives whilst the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing. Workshop participants will not be required to work closely together in groups. Instead, every student will complete an activity individually. Their scores will contribute to a team score and to the class total. This approach helps to build a positive competitive motivation that has proved so highly successful since the launch of our workshops in 2001.

8) Methods of teaching have been adapted to minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible between TiE presenters and members of the educational establishment hosting a workshop. Presenters will wear face screens and a microphone to deliver training from the front of the room - to reduce the risk of aerosolised virus.

9) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be worn by TiE presenters if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from students or school staff. Members of the TiE team will wear a multi-layered face mask and a face shield when distributing equipment and offering support to participants. Gloves or hand sanitiser will be used appropriately.

10) Students should bring their own mask to the workshop. They will be required to wear it when entering and exiting the room. They will also need to wear their face mask when individual guidance/advice is requested. Our presentation teams will have an emergency supply of disposable face masks to give to students that have misplaced their own.

Activity Design & Use of Resources

UK Government's 'Action for schools during the coronavirus outbreak guidelines'

"Classroom based resources, can be used and shared within the bubble; these should be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment should be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles."

11) Where necessary, practical activities have been replaced or redesigned to enable TiE workshops to run more safely whilst still achieving many of their original objectives. Some workshops have proved impossible to adapt safely and TiE will not deliver them whilst Covid-19 is active. The full list of Covid-Secure workshops can be viewed [here](#).

12) All practical equipment provided by TiE will be thoroughly cleaned with recommended detergents/bleach or carefully stored between workshops for at least 72 hours to limit transference from surfaces. Workshop participants will be expected to bring and use their own stationery (as used in regular lessons).

13) Equipment sharing and person to person interaction will be kept to the absolute minimum. Participants will be allocated a bag/envelope/tray/zone containing equipment needed in the workshop and treated as in point 12. However, some specialist equipment (e.g bottles of chemicals) may need to be shared within the group/bubble created by the host establishment - in which case participants will be instructed to wear the disposable gloves provided or use sanitiser immediately before and after using equipment. Activities of this type can be clearly identified in the workshop details and our staff will discuss any such activities and available options with you at the time of booking.

Updated 15/10/20



Covid-Secure Workshop Delivery Plan

Thinkers in Education (TiE) will strictly adhere to the safety procedures and behaviours determined by the host establishment AND in addition will:

- A. Check team members for symptoms and measure their temperatures on the days leading up to and on the day of the workshop. The workshop will be cancelled at no cost to the hosting establishment if Covid-19 is suspected.
- B. Wait at least 3 days after delivering workshops in another establishment before working in your venue.
- C. Clean frequently touched surfaces using suitable detergents and bleach. Additional time may need to be allowed for extra cleaning (before and after any group changes) and this will be discussed at the time of booking.
- D. Place additional hand sanitisers around the venue to ensure participants can use it upon entering/exiting the venue or before and after practical activities.
- E. Provide room requirements and layout suggestions for Covid-Secure workshops.
- F. Replace team-building, group work and peer-to-peer learning activities with Covid-Secure alternatives.
- G. Deliver the workshop from the front of the room, observing social distancing rules, wearing a face-shield and using a microphone as appropriate.
- H. Wear a mask, face-shield and use hand sanitiser whilst distributing equipment and providing extra help to participants as safely as possible.
- I. Thoroughly clean equipment with recommended detergents/bleach or carefully store it between workshops for at least 72 hours before use.
- J. Distribute equipment safely via a bag/tray/zone for each participant.
- K. Minimise equipment sharing, in line with government guidance, and provide participants with gloves or hand-sanitiser to use where shared equipment is used.



Covid-Secure Hosting Requirements

Please provide:

- A. Details of your establishments Coronavirus Practices before the workshop is delivered. The Thinkers in Education (TiE) presentation team will strictly adhere to your specific safety procedures to minimise any transmission risk of Covid-19.
- B. A name list for each class/group participating in a TiE workshop.
- C. An image of the room and the table layout to be used for the workshop.

Please consider:

- D. TiE will adapt workshop(s) for the class layout used by the school in the venue if at all possible or will rearrange the room layout to ensure all students face forward, meet safety requirements and the workshop can be delivered in a practical manner.
- E. A large room (hall/gym) may be required, depending on the number of students included, to make workshop participation as safe as possible.
- F. Additional tables may be required so equipment can be easily collected and returned by students with minimal movement around the room.

Please ensure:

- G. Students bring their own stationery to use and a face mask to wear when entering/exiting the room and when individual support is requested.
- H. Students arrive at the workshop having cleaned their hands in line with your school procedures. TiE will place additional hand sanitiser dispensers around the venue.
- I. Your staff are present to supervise students during Arrival, Break and Exit times in line with your establishment's safety regulations.
- J. TiE staff have access to toilet facilities before, during and after the workshop(s).