

PCR: Question of Taste Risk Assessment

Activity	Hazard	Precaution	Risk
PTC strip tasting	Ingestion of too much PTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will not be permitted to taste more than one strip per workshop. This is below the limit recommended by CLEAPSS. Demonstrators will model tasting technique using control strips to prevent repeated exposure. 	Very Low
	Ingestion of other hazardous chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will wash and dry their hands before tasting strips. 	Low
Cheek cell collection in saline mouthwash	Biohazard from student's cheek cells and/or saliva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students only handle their own samples. All samples disposed of following appropriate rules. Any spills immediately disinfected. 	Low
Micropipetting	Micropipette tips – Sharp/ DNA contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be trained to use micropipettes safely and dispose of tips appropriately. Waste pot with disinfectant provided for used pipette tips. Tips finally disposed in sharps box. 	Very Low
	Disinfectant (Virkon) - potential skin & eye irritant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used at a high dilution. Only a small amount of disinfectant in large, stable waste pot. 	Very low
Chemical reagents used during workshop	Could cause minor discomfort if swallowed or splashed in eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be adequately warned of potential hazards and receive training in safe laboratory practice. 	Very low
Pouring gels	Molten agarose (70°C) could cause minor burns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand protection provided. Gel pouring closely supervised. 	Low
Running Gels	Electrical current in gel – risks associated with use of electrical equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity cannot pass through the gel unless lid is securely on, eliminating any risk of electric shock from the gel buffer. Demonstrator will check all leads connected correctly and switch power packs on and off. 	Very low
DNA Visualisation	Damage to eyes from blue light transilluminator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be provided with safety glasses to safely view gels using the transilluminator. 	Very low