

COVID-19 INFORMATION

GUIDANCE FOR LIVE MUSIC, DANCE AND THEATRE

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- Implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees, performers, production crew, and front of house;
- Provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- Ensure that attendees and venues maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- Comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support efforts in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among participants in music, dance, and theatre activities (including performers, instructors, support staff, volunteers and the general public).

At this time, group singing and wind instrument playing (including woodwind and brass) as well as singing and wind instrument performances should not take place. These are considered high-risk activities for COVID-19 spread because infected individuals who participate are more likely to spread infection through their respiratory droplets or aerosols.

This guidance is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Performers – General Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live performance activities such as playing non-wind instruments, and dancing may proceed if physical distancing is possible.• If frequent close contact and sharing of items is required between performers and/or performers and the production team, these individuals may form a cohort.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sharing of instruments, microphones, musical scores, and all other items should be avoided. Items that must be shared should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between each individual use.○ A cohort is defined as a closed, small group of no more than 50 individuals who participant in the same activity, and remain together for the duration of Stage 2.• Albertans, and performers visiting Alberta, must follow CMOH Order 05-2020, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation.• While performing in public places, performers are encouraged to observe frequent hand hygiene and proper respiratory etiquette.• Wherever possible, music, dance, and theatrical performances should be moved to outdoor settings to reduce the risk of transmission.
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conductors, instructors, musicians, technicians, and production crew members who are not cohorting should maintain two metres of physical distance from each other at all times.• Two metres of distance should be maintained at all times from venue staff.• For non-cohorting musicians, music instructors, and production staff:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activities which would normally require individuals to be in close proximity should be adapted or avoided to maintain physical distancing. ○ Where it is not possible maintain two metres of distance (for example, in a sound booth or change room), additional barriers such as acrylic shields or masks should be used. ○ Sharing of instruments, equipment, and other items should be avoided. ○ Instruments, equipment and other items that that must be shared or passed between individuals should be cleaned and disinfected at an increased frequency. If this is not possible, individuals touching these props should perform hand hygiene before and after touching the items, and refrain from touching their faces. ○ Individuals who are heavily exerting themselves while playing music should maintain a distance greater than two metres from all others while performing.
Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All dancers, instructors, and production staff who are not part of the same cohort should maintain at least two metres distance from each other at all times (unless they are part of the same household). ● Performers, instructors, and production crew should maintain two metres of distance at all times from venue staff. ● For non-cohorting dancers, dance instructors, and production staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dance activities which would normally require individuals to be in close proximity should be adapted or avoided to maintain physical distancing. ○ In activities involving multiple dancers, each dancer should be assigned a designated area in which they can move about. Dancers should stay in their designated area for the duration of the activity (no swapping places). ○ Props and items that that must be shared or passed between individuals should be cleaned and disinfected at an increased frequency. If this is not possible, individuals touching these props should perform hand hygiene before and after touching the items, and refrain from touching their faces.
Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All individuals participating in theatre activities should maintain two metres of distance from each other all times, including in dressing rooms and backstage, unless they are part of the same cohort or household. ● Two metres of distance should be maintained at all times from venue staff. ● For non-cohorting actors, acting instructors, and production staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theatrical activities which require individuals to be in close proximity to one another should be adapted or avoided to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. ○ Where it is not possible to maintain two metres of distance (for example, in a change room or during a performance), additional barriers such as acrylic shields or masks should be used. ○ Costumes for each actor should be kept apart from those of other actors at all times, and washed or cleaned after each performance. ○ Individuals should avoid shared handling of props and other items. ○ Props and items that that must be shared or passed between individuals should be cleaned and disinfected at an increased frequency. If this is not possible, individuals touching these props should perform hand hygiene before and after touching the items, and refrain from touching their faces.

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<p>Performances (Music, Dance, Drama)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of people in the performing cohort group (including performers, instructors, and production team members) should not exceed 50 at this time. • The number of audience members permitted in the venue at one time (not including the performing group or venue staff) may not exceed 100 people. • Music, dance and theatrical performances by children are discouraged at this time unless it is possible to maintain the required physical distancing or cohorts. • Members of the performing group should not mingle with audience members, patrons, venue staff or volunteers during or after performances. • Performance contracts should consider refund, exchange, and event cancelation or postponement policies in the event that performers become ill or proper precautions cannot be observed.
<p>Venues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venues that host music, dance, and theatre activities are expected to abide by applicable guidance documents to the extent possible, to keep staff, volunteers, performers, and patrons safe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This information in this guidance is not intended to exempt employers from existing occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements. OHS questions and concerns can be directed to the OHS Contact Centre by telephone at 1-866-415-8690 (in Alberta) or 780-415-8690 (in Edmonton) or online. • Many buildings that have been unoccupied for some time have had reduced or no water flow through the plumbing system during the pandemic, leading to the stagnation of water in the pipes. Prior to re-opening, each venue should flush stagnant water lines. See Guidance for Flushing Water Systems • Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations: ○ “Help prevent the spread” posters are available. ○ When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees. • The venue staff should ensure that organizations, groups, or individuals that participate in music or theatre activities in a public venue comply with the venue’s rules and precautions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. • Venue operators should consider adjusting publicly accessible spaces to support physical distancing among performers, staff, volunteers, and attendees who participate in these activities. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Controlling and staggering entry into, and exit from, the venue. ○ Extending the time between door opening and performance start to allow for staggered entry. ○ Establishing different points of entry and exit from high traffic areas. ○ Arranging or marking seating to ensure minimum 2 metre social distancing between individuals who are not members of the same household. ○ Identifying areas, such as lobbies or bathrooms, where crowding and bottlenecks are common, and using volunteers, staff, or barriers to redirect people who may gather in these areas. ○ Using floor markings to encourage physical distancing if attendees are required to wait in line.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venues should take steps to ensure the safety of all patrons at musical, dance, or theatre events, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using online ticketing, and cashless payment options, wherever possible. ○ Blocking off the front two rows of spectator seating or ensuring a minimum distance of at least 2 metres between performers and audience seating areas. ○ Posting signage and making verbal announcements to encourage patrons to maintain physical distance from other people at all times and follow proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. ○ Encouraging safer alternatives to cheering, such as clapping and noisemakers. ○ Where possible, offering alternatives to in-person attendance, such as live streaming music, dance, and theatrical performances or offering drive-in only venues. • Organizers should increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of all areas of the venue, including front of house, box office, technician booths, backstage or dressing rooms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operators should follow Alberta Health Services' Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities. ○ Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch/shared surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, faucets and taps, elevator buttons, railings. ○ Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol content is highly recommended at venue entrances and exits, and throughout the venue. • Venues that offer food or beverage services should adhere to the Guidance for Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs, and Bars.
<p>Screening & Rapid Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The venue should consider implementing active screening of staff, volunteers, and performer for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool can be used by attendees. ○ Operators may choose to use daily checklist found in the COVID General Relaunch Guidance document. • Operators should develop a rapid response plan that sets out a fast-action plan with policies and procedures for when an attendee or performer shows symptoms of COVID-19. • To support public health contact tracing efforts, venues should consider inviting patrons to download and use the ABTraceTogether mobile contact tracing app.
<p>Non-Traditional Venues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Pop-up” or street performance events that attract crowds of onlookers outside of a controlled area should be avoided due to the difficulty of maintaining appropriate distancing and managing the size of the gathering. • Organizers of large drive-in performances (over 50 people) should develop a plan to keep performers and audience members safe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vehicles should contain only individuals from the same household. ○ People are discouraged from leaving their vehicles during concerts, except when using the washroom. ○ People leaving their vehicles to use the washrooms should be encouraged to maintain a minimum distance of two metres from others at all times.

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Instruction and practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice, rehearsals, and paid or voluntary instruction of dance, music, and theatre may proceed so long as all participants follow the relevant instruction in this guidance and other applicable guidance documents.• Business, entities, and individuals that offer instruction or practice opportunities (whether professional or voluntary) should follow the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance and all other applicable guidance to keep themselves and their students safe.• Wherever possible, instruction and practice sessions for the performing arts should be conducted remotely, via video conference or other means.• Where in-person teaching and practice is required, it may occur so long as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Participants should maintain two metres of physical distance from all others at all times, unless they are members of the same cohort or household.○ Non-cohorting individuals from different households who must come within two metres of each other for the purposes of instruction should wear masks or be separated by a barrier.○ If practice or rehearsal occurs outside of a venue, the number of people present (including instructors, coaches, students, and technicians) should adhere follow the Restrictions on Gatherings.
Recording Studios	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording studios are expected to adhere to the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance and this guidance, to the extent possible, and should consider the following additional precautions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Encourage use of appointments and stagger appointment times to limit customer interaction.○ Provide adequate time to clean and sanitize equipment and high-touch surfaces (i.e. mic stands, door knobs).○ Encourage bringing clean personal equipment (such as headphones) to the appointment.○ Establish a maximum capacity limit for the studio based on space available and physical distancing. Have vocal performances conducted in an isolated room whenever possible.• Use equipment that is easier to clean and sanitize (e.g. a metal pop filter on a microphone rather than a mesh filter).