**GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES 15 AUG 20**

**1. UPDATED GOVERNMENT ADVICE**

Additional mitigations, such as extended social distancing, were previously required for singing, wind and brass given concerns that these were potentially higher risk activities. DCMS commissioned further scientific studies to develop the scientific evidence on these activities, which has allowed us to reconsider these additional mitigations. Both professionals and non-professionals can now engage in singing, wind and brass in line with this guidance.

However, these studies have also indicated that it is the cumulative aerosol transmission from both those performing in and attending events that is likely to create risk. We are continuing to develop more detailed understanding of how to mitigate this potential aggregate risk, but in that context, organisations should therefore consider:

* Maintaining social distancing wherever possible. Non-professionals should not engage in activities that may lead to social distancing being compromised.
* Ensuring activity takes place outside wherever possible, including performance
* Limiting the number of performers as far as possible (with non-professionals being restricted by rules on [meeting people outside your home](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july))
* Limiting the duration of social interaction opportunities ie rehearsals or performances as far as possible
* Taking steps to improve ventilation as far as possible and whenever possible, both through the use of mechanical systems and opening windows and doors
* Continue to take the other vital steps outlined in this guidance, including preventing unwell people from attending, maintaining cleanliness, supporting contact tracing and other mitigating measures.
* (*not applicable)* Limiting the number of audience members, noting that capacity should be maintained at a level that allows social distancing to be maintained
* *not applicable)* Taking steps to encourage audiences to support the overall safety of the event, including discouraging activities which can create aerosol (such as shouting, chanting and singing along), seating individuals rather than allowing them to stand (to help maintain social distancing) and the other mitigations outlined in this guidance

By considering and adopting these measures cumulatively, the overall risk of the event will be reduced.

**2. MANAGING RISK**

*Objective: To reduce risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level by taking preventative measures, in order of priority.*

Protect the health and safety of your participants and any audience by working through these steps in order:

2.1 You should consider and set out the mitigations you will introduce in your risk assessment. (Mitigation does not include basic measures such as good hand and respiratory hygiene, the compliance with which should be universal and is assumed).

2.2 Everyone should make every reasonable effort to comply with the social distancing guidelines set out by the government (2m, or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable).

2.3 Where the social distancing guidelines cannot be followed in full organisations should consider whether that activity needs to continue for it to operate, and if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission between their staff, participants and visitors. Further mitigating actions include:

* Increasing the frequency of hand washing and surface cleaning, including disinfection of high footfall areas or common touchpoints with particular attention to toilets/restrooms
* keeping the activity time of any activity where social distancing cannot be maintained as short as possible
* using screens or barriers to separate people from each other
* using back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible
* reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using ‘fixed teams or partnering’ (so each person works with only a few others

2.4 In your assessment you should have particular regard to whether the people undertaking the activity are especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

2.5 Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law.

2.6 You must share the results of your risk assessment with your workforce. If possible, you should consider publishing the results on your website

### 3 TEST AND TRACE

You should keep a temporary record of your audience (when applicable) and other visitors for 21 days,

### 4 MANAGING YOUR VENUE

*Objective: To ensure social distancing is possible by limiting the number of people able to access the premises or venue.*

4.1 Particular attention should be given to ventilation and sufficient circulation space especially around equipment and between groups and any classes and teachers.

4.2 Conduct a specific risk assessment for each premises or venue and the proposed activities to identify:

* The likely numbers of people that will be on the premises at different times of its use
* The number of people that can reasonably follow social distancing within the premises, taking into account total space and likely constraints (toilets and washrooms) and pinch points
* The ventilation rates that can be applied to the premises or venue and whether this can be adjusted sufficiently to deliver a safe environment
* Which activities can be undertaken and which spaces can be used with specific measures to ensure social distancing and maintain cleaning

### 5. PLAYING MUSIC

*Objective: To minimise the risk of transmission playing in music groups*

**Steps that will usually be needed:**

1. Observing social distancing at all times whilst playing.
2. Using back-to-back or side-to-side positioning (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible.
3. Playing outdoors wherever possible.
4. If playing indoors, limiting the numbers to account for ventilation of the space and the ability to social distance.
5. Considering regular private testing (noting that this will not allow any relaxation of other control measures) with an accredited provider, particularly for those who play with more than one group at a time such as deputising musicians and teachers.
6. Considering using screens or barriers in addition to social distancing.

### 6. KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN

*Objective: To keep the environment clean and prevent transmission by touching contaminated surfaces.*

**Steps that will usually be needed:**

1. Frequent cleaning particularly of touchpoints like door handles and areas which are likely to be used extensively, such as toilets.
2. Frequent cleaning of work areas and equipment between use, using your usual cleaning products.
3. Frequent cleaning of objects and surfaces that are touched regularly such as coffee or vending machines or staff handheld devices, and making sure there are adequate disposal arrangements for cleaning products.
4. Maintain good ventilation in the practice environment. For example, opening windows and doors frequently where possible
5. Owners keeping instruments and other personal kit clean, and not sharing these items with others.
6. Avoid sharing instruments and personal items such as phones, chargers, pens,
7. Owners take responsibility for regularly disinfecting their own personal equipment.
8. Handling of music scores to be limited to the individual using them.
9. Clear workspaces and remove waste and belongings from the work area at the end of each practice session.
10. If you are cleaning after a known or suspected case of COVID-19 then you should refer to the specific guidance.

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### 7. HYGIENE

*Objective: To help everyone keep good hygiene at all times*

**Steps that will usually be needed:**

1. Using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency, avoid touching your face and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available.
2. Providing regular reminders and signage to maintain hygiene standards.
3. Providing hand sanitiser in multiple accessible locations in addition to washrooms, and considering the needs of wheelchair users in where these are placed.
4. Providing hand drying facilities, either paper towels or electrical dryers.