

7. Performing arts

This category applies to all performing arts (music, dance, comedy, theatre), from rehearsals to performances. Organisers should consider rehearsals and set-up as a separate issue from performances.

NB: Detailed governmental guidance about amateur and professional performing arts activities is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts#arts-5-2>

The OU Drama Sabbatical Officer and OU Music Society will have further advice for performing arts activities.

Government limits on numbers and types of participants (amateur or professional), indoor/outdoor space use, ventilation and social distancing must be obeyed, and may change.

Risk category	Detail	Control measures	Person in charge
Communication	Risk of attendees misunderstanding and ignoring precautions	<i>eg providing pre-event communications in multiple ways to inform participants eg remind all participants that social distancing will be required eg signage at the venue eg consider equalities impacts in advance</i>	
Test and Trace logging	Cross-infection between participants	<i>eg use venue's Test and Trace logging system for visitors or keep manual record of participants and their contact details for 21 days</i>	
Detection of infection	Detecting COVID-19 cases and encouraging COVID-19 sense	<i>eg reminding participants not to ignore COVID-19 symptoms eg possible use of non-contact thermometers on entry as nudges</i>	
Air viral load	Risk of transmission through the air	<i>eg fresh air or air replacement ventilation available eg can windows/doors be opened eg rehearse and perform outdoors</i>	
Proximity	Proximity during auditions	<i>eg self-taping or online auditions to remove unnecessary interactions eg remove waiting areas, pre-plan audition slots eg install screens or barriers between auditionees and casting</i>	

		<p><i>team</i> <i>eg reduce size of cast and double-cast actors</i></p>	
	<p>Large group of performers increasing risk of infection</p>	<p><i>eg adhere to national guidelines on maximum numbers of non-household-members who can meet for any interaction, whether rehearsing, classes (eg ballet, music, theatre) or performing — this includes directors and producers</i></p>	
	<p>Proximity of performers, directors, producers and technicians whilst rehearsing or performing</p>	<p><i>eg full social distancing to be maintained at all times (possibly larger than 2m)</i> <i>eg barriers or screens to avoid virus being spread through the room quickly</i> <i>eg reduction of cast/performance group size esp for indoor rehearsals</i> <i>eg use of alternative technology for remote rehearsals</i> <i>eg performers and technicians attending only when needed</i> <i>eg position group/cast side to side or back-to back to avoid face-to-face transmission</i> <i>eg tape out areas on floor of theatre for social distancing</i> <i>eg remove need for the performers to move around the audience</i> <i>eg plan out movements on/off stage</i> <i>eg barriers around sound and lighting desks</i> <i>eg leaving rows of seats empty at front of auditorium</i> <i>eg restrict who is allowed to be backstage</i> <i>eg one-way systems around venues including backstage</i> <i>eg remove orchestra pits or reduce orchestra size</i></p>	
	<p>Proximity of those filming for streaming of performances</p>	<p><i>eg film crew to maintain social distancing from performers at all times</i> <i>eg film crew to wear masks</i></p>	
	<p>Transmission between front and back of house</p>	<p><i>eg maintain front-of-house and back-of-house zones separately</i> <i>eg minimising number of people who have to move between these areas</i></p>	
	<p>Communication between team members</p>	<p><i>eg use of whiteboards, signage and online messages to reduce the need for face-to-face meetings about plans and changes</i></p>	

	Proximity of audience while queueing	<i>eg online ticketing</i> <i>eg QR-code ticket checks on entry</i> <i>eg masks to be worn</i> <i>eg staggered/scheduled arrivals/departures</i> <i>eg one-way routes around venue</i> <i>eg socially-distanced queues</i> <i>eg marked queueing locations on ground</i>	
	Proximity of audience in room	<i>eg masks to be worn</i> <i>eg prearranged layout or preassigned seating plan</i> <i>eg remove or block out unnecessary seats</i> <i>eg block or cross out areas of tables to socially-distance</i> <i>eg consider whether household groups can sit together (pre-booked?)</i> <i>eg stewarding to ensure social distancing</i>	
Surface contact	Transmission of virus via fomite surfaces e.g. doors/codepads	<i>eg open doors for ingress/egress</i> <i>eg steward any open fire doors</i> <i>eg use of hand sanitiser</i>	
	Fomites as infected scripts	<i>eg project lines onto screens for rehearsals</i> <i>eg learn lines in advance</i>	
	Fomites as infected staging/props/backstage	<i>eg pre-fabricate set off-site where possible</i> <i>eg use of gloves</i> <i>eg regular cleaning including sound/lighting desks</i> <i>eg limit props to only the essentials</i> <i>eg hand sanitiser available backstage</i>	
	Fomites as infected costumes	<i>eg using screened-off cubicles for dressing</i> <i>eg separating costumes in plastic bags</i> <i>eg keeping cast's own clothes in individual plastic bags</i> <i>eg cleaning costumes between uses</i> <i>eg costume fittings done off-site</i> <i>eg musicians arrive at performances in the clothes they will wear for it</i>	
	Hair and makeup	<i>eg cast/performers do their own hair and makeup beforehand</i>	

	transmission	<i>eg allocate own makeup kit to each performer eg regular cleaning</i>	
	Fomites as infected in-performance room surfaces such as tables, chairs etc	<i>eg cleaning before and after table/room use eg use of gloves and masks eg use of hand sanitiser</i>	
	Creation of fomites transmitted during payments	<i>eg pre-booking of food/drink options eg contactless payment systems used eg remove performance intervals eg allow audience to bring their own refreshments</i>	
	Risk of cross-infection via water sources	<i>eg ask individuals to bring their own water bottles eg handwashing at taps</i>	
	Risk of cross-infection via toilet facilities	<i>eg allocation of specific bathrooms in the venue to your group eg communication (via signage and/or in advance online) of toilet locations and usage rules to your group eg check that cleaning equipment is available in toilets eg signage to encourage handwashing, and cleaning of sinks etc after use</i>	
	Microphones as fomites	<i>eg avoid sharing microphones</i>	

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