

STAGE 2: GUIDANCE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Overview

Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 25-2020 requires businesses and entities to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with any applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx.

Where any part of this guidance is inconsistent or in conflict with enhanced or stronger public health restrictions set out in another CMOH Order, the enhanced or stronger public health measures would prevail. Operators are also required to follow the [General Operational Guidance](#) and any other applicable CMOH orders.

This document has been developed to support participants of performing arts activities and operators of venues where performing arts occur to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including performers, production crew, venue staff, audience members, volunteers and members of the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures specific to these settings and activities.

This document applies to performing arts, including, but not limited to: singing, dance, theatre, and music.

In all settings, it is important that measures are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to ensuring: capacity limits, physical distancing, barrier use (where appropriate), proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enhanced and appropriate cleaning and disinfecting, records management and building maintenance (e.g., ventilation).

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Albertans of all ages are allowed to participate in solo, 1:1 and group performance activities and rehearsals.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Adults can do performance activities with or without an instructor; youth should be supervised by an adult instructor.• Performance activities are allowed in any indoor or outdoor facility that is open to public access, except restaurants and food service establishments.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Capacity limits and distancing requirements apply in these settings.• In-person performance competitions, events, showcases, concerts or similar, are now permitted in alignment with the guidance in this document
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performers, instructors and spectators must screen themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist before participating in any performance activity. • To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that an attendee tests positive or an outbreak is identified, organizers should collect the names and contact information for all performers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If Alberta Health Services determines a COVID-19 case to be infectious during rehearsal, performance etc. all individuals who had close contact interactions with that individual during the infectious period of the case will be considered close contacts and be required to quarantine as per current quarantine requirements. • The performing arts organizer must have detailed plans for a rapid response if an attendee becomes symptomatic while at the location where the performance activity occurs. For more information on what this must include, see the General Operational Guidance. • It is strongly recommended that individuals engaging in performance activities and who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, be vaccinated as a means to reduce the risk of being infected with and transmitting COVID-19.
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People participating in performance activities must maintain 2 metres' physical distance from all others who are not part of their household at all times, except during rehearsal or performance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing is required during performance lessons (e.g., 1:1 or group format) ○ Wherever possible in rehearsal or performance, physical distancing should be maintained.
<p>Masking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masking is not required for any performance activity conducted outdoors. • Masking is required when participating in indoor practicing, lessons, or rehearsals, but not during or the performance itself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wind instruments must be equipped with a cover to prevent droplet transmission, except during performance. ○ Wherever possible, masks should be worn for performance. • Masking is required indoors at all times when not performing. Performers must follow hand hygiene measures when removing and donning their masks to perform. • See the next section for masking rules for coaches, instructors and trainers.
<p>Coaches, Instructors, and Trainers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches, instructors, and teachers must remain 2 metres physically distanced from participants, unless close contact is required for instruction (e.g., to correct form or provide brief demonstration).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These situations should be limited as much as possible. ○ When these situations must occur, the instructor must be wearing a mask (including outdoors), and sanitize their hands before and after the interaction. ● Instructors and trainers must wear masks indoors, except when engaging in physical activity. ● Instructors and trainers are encouraged to mask outdoors. ● Youths participating in performance activities should be overseen by an adult (e.g., a leader, instructor, coach, supervisor, conductor or choreographer).
Shared Equipment and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizers should ask participants to bring their own equipment/materials, where feasible. ● If the organizer is providing equipment or materials, they should minimize the shared use of equipment/materials, and, if possible, assign specific equipment/materials to each attendee. ● Participants must perform hand hygiene before and after an activity where shared equipment (e.g., instruments, sheet music) are used. ● Organizers must clean and disinfect any shared equipment/materials between uses.
K-12 and Post-Secondary Performance Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoor/outdoor group performance activities are allowed at K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions so long as participants follow this guidance, the K-12 School Re-Entry Guidance and the Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions.
MUSIC	
Wind Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The length of the instrument must be considered as an extension of the individual when determining the spacing between musicians. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Physical distancing should be measured from the end of an instrument. ● Empty spit valves often. Empty valves away from others by blowing into a cloth to collect the liquid or onto a disposable absorbent pad. Cloth must be disposed of immediately or placed in a closed plastic bag for washing. Perform hand hygiene after emptying spit valves.
Singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal group singing by the general public must not occur at this time, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Karaoke singing; ○ Audience singing; and ○ Singing in other informal contexts where there is not a recognized leader, such as a conductor or teacher. ● Performers should not directly face other performers while singing.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing microphones is not recommended.
THEATRE	
Guidance Specific for Theatre Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costumes, costuming masks and make-up should not be shared between actors from different households. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider options where face masks may be used in costuming. • Consider blocking and spacing that limits face to face interaction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wherever possible, incorporate physical distancing into set design and staging. • Individuals should avoid shared handling of props and other items, or should perform hand hygiene more frequently if handling shared objects is required.
DANCE	
Guidance Specific for Dance Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costumes, costuming masks and make-up should not be shared between dancers from different households. • Individuals should avoid shared handling of props and other items, or should perform hand hygiene more frequently if handling shared objects is required. • Consider using head positions, body positioning and formations that limit face to face interaction (e.g., all look the same direction at the same time, pass back to back). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wherever possible, incorporate physical distancing into choreography. • Dance for fitness or sport must be done in accordance with the Guidance for Sport, Fitness, and Recreation.
FACILITIES/VENUES/AUDIENCES	
Advice for Facility Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility staff are required to mask indoors. • More than one group can occupy a space at a time (e.g., concert halls, auditoriums) at a time, so long as they can maintain physical distancing between groups and individuals within the groups. • Operators should place hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol in convenient locations throughout their facility. • Operators must enhance cleaning and disinfecting practices as described in the COVID-19 General Operational Guidance. • Facility operators should disable fans to limit dispersion of droplets.
Audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiences must be limited to the capacity for the facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1/3 of normal seating capacity for indoor settings (fixed seating only); no indoor non-seated audiences are permitted. ○ 1/3 of normal seating capacity for outdoor fixed seating settings.

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- 150 people for outdoor public gatherings.
 - All audiences must maintain 2 metres distance between household groups, or groups of individuals who live alone and their 2 close contacts.
 - Guidance for these settings must be followed.
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This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: June 2021