

# GUIDANCE FOR LIVE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

## 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 attendees in the rehearsal and performance of instrumental music activities. The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures specific to this activity.

- “Attendees” includes musicians, other performers, instructors, support staff, volunteers and the general public.

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

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

### General Guidance

- Playing musical instruments may proceed both indoors and outdoors where 2 metre physical distancing is possible between musicians.
  - Wherever possible, music performances should be held in outdoor settings to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Musicians should limit the number of performance groups in which they participate.
- Musicians should wear masks when not playing wind instruments.
- Musicians should use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol content before and after playing.
- Individuals at [high risk of severe outcomes](#) from COVID-19 should not play wind instruments, and should not be near those playing wind instruments.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sharing of instruments, equipment, and other items should be avoided. If certain items must be shared, clean and disinfect them between use by different individuals.</li><li>• Members of the performing group should not mingle with audience members, patrons, venue staff or volunteers during or after performances.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Albertans and performers visiting Alberta must follow <a href="#">CMOH Order 05-2020</a>, 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.</li></ul> <p>To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that an attendee tests positive, organizers should consider keeping attendance rosters and collecting the names and contact information of attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing information is voluntary for patrons. Operators must obtain an individual’s consent and notify them about the purpose and legal authority for the collection.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Non-Wind Instruments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain 2 metres physical distance between non-wind musicians prior to, during, and after playing.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Where it is not possible to maintain 2 metres of distance (for example, in a sound booth or change room), additional barriers such as masks or acrylic shields should be used.</li><li>○ Non-wind musicians may be within 2 metres of each other if they form a cohort. Information on cohorts can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li></ul></li><li>• Individuals who are heavily exerting themselves while playing music should consider maintaining a distance greater than 2 metres from all others while performing.</li><li>• Musicians should all face the same direction to minimize potential exposure.</li><li>• Musicians should maintain 2 metres physical distance from all other performers (e.g, vocalists), all production crew and venue staff.</li></ul>

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## Wind Instruments

- Play wind instruments outdoors when possible.
- Wind instrumentalists should maintain at least 2 metre distance from each other and all others prior to, during, and after playing.
  - The length of the instrument should be considered as an extension of the individual and included when determining the spacing between musicians.
- Cover the bell of such instruments with a thin, tightly woven fabric cover.
  - Fabric covers and pop screens should be laundered between each use with hot water and soap.
  - Use a mesh nylon (not metal) pop screen in front of a transverse flute's blowhole (or similar transverse instruments), whether playing inside or outside. Clean pop screens between each use by submersing in a bath of lukewarm water and soap, then rinse and wipe or air dry.
- 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 should be disposed of immediately or placed in a closed plastic bag for laundering. Perform hand hygiene after emptying spit valves.
- Players should only remove their face masks immediately before playing. Face masks should be put back on after they have finished playing, following the instructions in the [Guidance for Wearing of Non-Medical Face Masks for the General Public](#).
- Wind instrument ensembles should not perform in locations where there are people at [high risk of developing severe outcomes](#) from COVID-19 (e.g. seniors' residences, medical care facilities). A wind instrument performance in these settings should be limited to a soloist with a minimum of 4 metres distance between the soloist and the audience.

### Playing Indoors

- Limit the length of playing time to 30 minutes, followed by a 10-minute break to allow for air exchange in the room.
  - Ensure that ventilation systems are operational and functioning optimally. Refer to the [General Relaunch Guidance](#) for more information on ventilation.
- Ensure that the room where music is played is sufficiently large to accommodate physical distancing, and has a high ceiling if possible.

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## Venue Operations

- Venues that host music activities are expected to abide by applicable [guidance documents](#) to the extent possible, to keep staff, volunteers, performers, and patrons safe.
- Audience should be advised that there should not be any singing along, cheering or yelling.
- Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.
  - 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.
- 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:
  - 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 distance 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.
- Venues should take steps to ensure the safety of all patrons, including:
  - Using online ticketing, and cashless payment options, wherever possible.
  - Blocking off the front two rows of spectator seating, erecting barriers or ensuring a minimum distance of at least 4 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

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	<p>booths, backstage and dressing rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operators should follow Alberta Health Services' <a href="#">Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities</a>.</li> <li>○ Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch/shared surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, faucets and taps, elevator buttons, railings.</li> <li>○ Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol content is highly recommended at venue entrances and exits, and throughout the venue.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Venues that offer food or beverage services should adhere to the <a href="#">Guidance for Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs, and Bars</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-traditional Venues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “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. Consider using reservations or ticketing to avoid this.</li> <li>● See the <a href="#">Drive In Event Guidance</a> and <a href="#">Outdoor Event Guidance</a> for more information on operating in these settings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Screening &amp; Response Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consider implementing active screening of attendees (where applicable) and staff for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operators may choose to use the <a href="#">Alberta Health Daily Checklist</a>.</li> <li>○ The Alberta Health Services <a href="#">COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool</a> can be used by attendees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● A rapid response plan sets out a fast-action plan for operators when an attendee shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.</li> <li>● Staff should be familiar with and follow the operator’s rapid response plan if an attendee starts feeling symptoms during a shift. This should include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Immediately isolating the attendee from others.</li> <li>○ Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic attendee.</li> <li>○ Requiring hand hygiene and masking of the attendee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The attendee must isolate at home as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Instruction and practice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Business, entities, and individuals offering instruction or practice opportunities (whether professional or voluntary) should follow the <a href="#">COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance</a>, and all other applicable guidance.</li> <li>● Wherever possible, instruction and practice sessions for the performing</li> </ul>

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	<p>arts should be conducted outdoors or remotely, via video conference or other means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice or rehearsal should adhere to the current <a href="#">Restrictions on Gatherings</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Recording Studios</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recording studios are expected to adhere to the <a href="#">COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance</a> and this guidance, to the extent possible, and should consider the following additional precautions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Encourage use of appointments and stagger appointment times to limit customer interaction.</li><li>○ Provide adequate time to clean and sanitize equipment and high-touch surfaces (.e.g. mic stands, door knobs).</li><li>○ Encourage bringing clean personal equipment (such as headphones) to the appointment.</li><li>○ Establish a maximum capacity limit for the studio based on space available and physical distancing.</li></ul></li><li>• Use a mesh nylon pop screen in front of microphones and clean between uses.</li></ul>