



COVID Safe – Rehearsal & Performance Guidelines

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed restrictions on the ability for performing arts organisations and venues to operate. These restrictions are gradually being eased across the country, meaning theatres and other live performance venues may reopen, when government restrictions allow. For productions to get back on stage, it is important producers and promoters understand how to do so safely, and how to mitigate risks.

Rehearsals

General

- Develop a schedule to clean and disinfect the rehearsal room and communal areas (e.g. kitchen, bathrooms), particularly frequently touched surfaces.
- Where reasonably practicable, schedule rehearsals to minimise the number of participants and to allow for cleaning between rehearsal calls.
- Where reasonably practicable, undertake rehearsals in large, well-ventilated areas.
- Maintain records of workers' attendance at rehearsals.
- Where it is not reasonably practicable to maintain physical distancing between workers, implement appropriate control measures such as use of PPE, face shields, screens.
- Where performers are required to participate in intimate scenes or be in close contact with other workers, this will be articulated in writing. Performers are required to provide written consent. Performers may also be asked to limit interactions with people outside of the production to reduce risks to the broader community.
- Maintain physical distancing outside the rehearsal room (e.g. in the green room, kitchen).

Pre-Rehearsal

- Provide a copy of the company's COVID Safe policy/plan to performers, musicians, creatives and crew.
- Performers, musicians, creatives and crew may be asked to:
 - Complete the health direct Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptom Checker (or other self-assessment tool);
 - Get tested for COVID-19 prior to commencing and throughout rehearsals; or bring items (such as pen, notebook, water bottle, mug, towel) for personal use during rehearsals.
- Map out scenes involving close contact or intimacy (including the control measures that may be implemented).

During Rehearsals

- The permitted number of people in the rehearsal room will comply with the applicable density rules.

- Where reasonably practicable, limit the number of people in the rehearsal room to essential personnel only. Performers and creatives who are not required in the rehearsal room or whose rehearsals have finished for the day shall be released and asked to leave.
- Wash/sanitise hands upon entering rehearsal space.
- On the first day of rehearsal, conduct toolbox talk to discuss COVID protocols. Regularly remind workers of COVID protocols.

Blocking

- Where reasonably practicable, blocking should be conducted, to the extent possible, while maintaining physical distancing.
- Where physical distancing is not possible:
 - Implement appropriate control measures such as use of PPE, face shields, screens.
 - Workers may be asked to limit interactions with people outside of the production to reduce risks to the broader community.
 - Upon commencement it will be discussed and agreed with all parties (noting that agreement between the parties must not contradict anything in these guidelines).
- As far as practicable, minimise time spent in close proximity to other performers.

Performances

General

- Maintain physical distancing while backstage (e.g. in the green room, dressing room).
- Read and follow venue COVID Safe plan before arrival

Sound and Technical Equipment

- Where practical provide personal vocal microphones.
- Clean and sanitise equipment after use.
- Additional time at the end of the day may be required for cleaning and sanitisation of equipment used.

Props and Sets

- Where reasonably practicable, allocate props to individuals to minimise sharing.
- For high touch props and sets, clean and sanitise after each performance, where reasonably practicable.
- Regularly clean other props and sets (e.g. weekly).

Hair, Makeup, Wardrobe and Costume

- Encourage performers (or other worker) to sanitise hair and makeup kits regularly.
- Where performer's own supplies are not being used, ensure makeup applicators and removal supplies are single use, are stored in covered containers and disposed of safely.

- If possible, allocate hair items to individual performers to minimise sharing.
- Regularly wash and clean wigs and hair extensions.
- Where reasonably practicable, prevent the sharing of costume pieces.
- Regularly clean costumes.

Orchestra / Musicians

- Maintain physical distancing between musicians where space allows.
- Allow suitable distance (e.g. 3-4 metres) between performers and audience.
- Where reasonably practicable, consider reduced numbers of musicians and/or staggered arrival and departure.
- Musicians to wipe down or spray music stands with disinfectant prior to each performance.
- Clean and disinfect floors following each performance.

Performers – actors, dancers, singers, opera, choirs

- Encourage performers to perform own props checks, where possible.
- Provide performers with bagged clean towels and laundry bags for used costume items.
- Blocking should be considered to prevent fast changes which require assistance.
- Set up dressing rooms and green room to facilitate physical distancing.
- Allow for greater distancing between singers, where space allows
- Performers not to enter the auditorium or have close interaction with audience during the show.