

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

- For performance:
 - “youth” is defined as individuals 18 years old and younger.
 - “adult” is defined as individuals 19 years old and older.
- No drop-in performance activities are permitted at this time
 - Appointments or pre-activity sign up is required.
- All Albertans can engage in one-on-one or one-to-household performance training, with 3 metres’ distance between the coach/trainer/instructor and client/household.
- Youths can participate in group performance activities with restrictions (see Indoor Performance and Outdoor Performance sections).

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no limit on the style of performance allowed, and permitted groups may be comprised of a variety of performers (e.g., singers, dancers, instrumentalists). • Groups of youth must have one participant that is an adult lead (e.g., instructor, coach, supervisor, conductor or choreographer). This person is counted towards the 10-person limit • A coach, instructor, conductor or teacher may breach the physical distancing requirement for brief periods if necessary to provide guidance or instruction (for example, to correct form or technique). • For any group of youths doing performance activities, up to 2 additional adults may attend to provide safety and security to that group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These chaperoning adults must stay 3 metres away from the participants and not participate in the activity. • Participants, parents, instructors and chaperones to check themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist before attending the facility or performance activity. • 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. |
| <p>Indoor Performances</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Albertans can engage in performance activities with their households or with a trainer indoors. • Albertans may also perform as a soloist indoors, as long as they are alone in the location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soloists may be filmed performing indoors, if they are filmed by their household, or by a coach/instructor/trainer. ○ Masks are required by the performer, unless they are in the location alone or with their household. • Youth may engage in performance activities in groups of up to 10 (including coaches/trainers) so long as 3 metres’ distance can be maintained between participants and the coach, instructor, trainer. • Masks are mandatory at all times when performing indoors, except while playing a wind instrument equipped with a cover intended to prevent droplet transmission. • No adult group performance activities are permitted indoors at this time. • In-person audiences for indoor performance activities are not permitted. • Instruction and practice sessions may be conducted in person or remotely, via video conference. |
| <p>Outdoor Performances</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Albertans can engage in outdoor performance activities alone, with their household or in groups of up to 10 (including coaches/trainers) so |

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| | <p>long as 2 metres' distance can be maintained between participants and between groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groups of youth must have at least one adult lead, who counts towards the total number in the group. ● Masking is not required outdoors as long as participants maintain physical distancing. ● In-person audiences for outdoor performance activities must be limited to 10 individuals who must stay 2 metres apart from people who are not part of their household. ● An outdoor performance may have a drive-in audience so long there all participants stay in their vehicles for the duration of the performance (unless using the washroom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vehicles must have 2 metres of physical distance between them. |
| Competition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance competitions, festivals, showcases, or similar, are not permitted at this time for Albertans of any age, whether indoors or outdoors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hosting/in-person filming/broadcasting of performance events are not permitted. ● Participation in virtual competitions is permitted in adherence with the Guidance for Gatherings, Virtual Events, Meetings and Seated Audience Settings. |
| K-12 and Post-Secondary Performance Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoor/outdoor group performance activity that is part of a program of study or curriculum at a school or post-secondary institution is allowed so long as the participants follow the K-12 School Re-Entry Guidance or the Guidance for Post-Secondary Institutions, respectively. ● Students are allowed to take part in group performance activities on or off school or post-secondary property if it is part of their normal program of study. ● Performance activities are expected to have a leader (such as a teacher or conductor) to ensure guidance and precautions like distancing and masking are consistently followed. |
| MUSIC | |
| Guidance Applicable to Music Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wherever possible, music performances should be held in outdoor settings to reduce the risk of transmission. ● Musicians are encouraged to all face the same direction to minimize potential face-to-face exposure. |
| Wind Instruments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Play wind instruments outdoors when possible. ● 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. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover the bell of wind instruments (e.g. with a thin, tightly woven fabric cover). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reusable fabric covers and pop screens must 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 screen 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 must be disposed of immediately or placed in a closed plastic bag for washing. Perform hand hygiene after emptying spit valves. • Players must only remove their face masks immediately before playing. Face masks must be put back on after they have finished playing. • It is recommended that playing time be limited to 30 minutes, followed by a 10-minute, break to allow for air exchange in the room. |
| <p>Singing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masking is required when singing indoors, but not when a solo artist is performing or rehearsing alone in a room or only with members of their household present. • 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. • Exercises such as lip and tongue rolls or trills should be avoided indoors wherever possible, as they generate an increased volume of droplets. • Sharing microphones is not recommended. • Groups of youth should not sing in small, enclosed spaces that lack adequate ventilation, such as dressing rooms, hallways, or loading areas. • It is recommended that vocal activity be limited to 30 minutes in ventilated areas, followed by a 10-minute break, to allow for air exchange in the room. |
| <p>THEATRE</p> | |
| <p>Guidance Applicable to Theatre Activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatrical activities, which typically require individuals to be in close proximity to one another, must be adapted or avoided to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained. • Costumes for each actor should be kept apart from those of other actors, and should be washed or cleaned for each performance. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals must avoid shared handling of props and other items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Props and items that must be shared or passed between individuals must be cleaned and disinfected at an increased frequency. Individuals touching these props must perform hand hygiene before and after touching the items, and refrain from touching their faces. • Make-up must not be shared between individuals. |
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DANCE

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| <p>General Guidance for Dance Performance</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance for fitness or sport must be done in accordance with the Guidance for Sport, Fitness, and Recreation. • Activities which would normally require individuals to be in close proximity must be adapted or avoided to maintain physical distancing. Adaptations could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use formations where dancers are not facing each other and are able to be spaced appropriately (e.g., have dancers pass each other back to back, not holding hands, all facing the same direction). ○ Use head movements that keep dancers faces pointing the same direction. ○ Eliminate falls and lifts that bring dancers into close contact. ○ Have dancers come onstage in different wings or in spaced out lines from either side of the stage area. • The choreographer/artistic director must remain 3 metres physically distant from dancers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The choreographer/artistic director may breach the physical distancing requirement for brief periods if necessary to provide guidance or instruction (e.g., to correct form or technique). • Props and items that are shared or passed between individuals must be cleaned and disinfected at an increased frequency. • Costumes for each dancer should be kept apart from those of other dancers, and washed or cleaned after each performance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masks during performance and rehearsal are required at all times; masks can be used as part of the costuming. • Make-up should not be shared between individuals. |
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FACILITIES/VENUES

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| <p>General</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity will be unique to each facility and set by the operator with consideration for the maximum number of participants that can be in the venue at one time with 3 metres of physical distancing maintained between all individuals while engaging in activity, and the ability to maintain and control entrances, exits, washrooms and change rooms. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More than one youth group can occupy an indoor space at a time, so long as there is sufficient room for 3 metres of physical distancing between groups and individuals within the groups.● Rental of a performance facility for the exclusive use of an individual or household is permitted.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Amenities within a facilities cannot be simultaneously rented to multiple individuals or households unless the spaces are physically separate by permanent or semi-permanent walls.● Facility operators should establish activity schedules to ensure physical distancing can be maintained and control traffic flow. Facility operators must enhance cleaning and disinfecting practices as described in the COVID-19 General Operational Guidance.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Organizers and facility operators must allow adequate time to thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment between each group/participant.● Facility operators should place hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol in convenient locations throughout the facility.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hand sanitizer should be used by participants before and after performing.● Operators must ensure that ventilation systems are operational and functioning optimally. Refer to the General Operational Guidance for more information on ventilation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Operators should disable fans to limit dispersion of droplets. |
| Dressing Rooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● To the extent possible, participants should arrive ready to participate. Organizers should limit access to dressing rooms wherever possible to final preparations, washroom use and emergency access (e.g., first aid).● Attendees should be encouraged to minimize time spent in dressing rooms for final preparations only, prior to entering the training area.● Individuals using the dressing/ room must maintain 2 metres of physical distancing from other participants.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If participants require support in the dressing rooms (i.e., parents), 2 metres of physical distance must be maintained between households and masks must be worn.● Gatherings, meals and meetings are not permitted in dressing rooms. |

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed.

Last Revised: April 2021