



COVID-19 Risk Method Statement

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References and Resources

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-COVID-19/performing-arts>

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-COVID-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#private-cars-and-other-vehicles>

[3] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/l/covid19-event-safety/>

[4] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-COVID-19/shops-and-branches>

Changes from Previous Version

Amendments to social distancing guidelines for singers and musicians following the latest revision UK Government guidelines for England[1] (Note: Scotland's guidelines are different to those for England).

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COVID-19 Risk Method Statement

1. Purpose

This document sets out the system that Opera Anywhere will implement to reduce the COVID-19 related risks to performers, musicians, crew, venue staff and audiences. It will be updated as guidelines change and as we gain more experience of performing.

Acknowledgement:

This Method Statement draws on information from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) [1]&[4] , Department for Transport (DfT) [2], Broadcast, Entertainment, Communications and Theatre Union (BECTU) and [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) [3].

Disclaimer

While every attempt has made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this document, restrictions and guidance will change according to local rates of infection and ongoing research into COVID-19. Local and national restrictions always take precedence over the guidance in this document.

Follow advice from and collaborate with local authorities and public health officials for current COVID-19 restrictions and recommendations.

2. Fundamentals

Please stay at home if you or anyone you live with or are in a support bubble with has:

- Any COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, or gastro-intestinal issues.
- Been diagnosed with COVID-19, or had direct contact with an individual diagnosed with or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Been informed through the NHS track-and-trace service that you have been in contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Arrived from a country in the last 14 days that requires you to self-isolate on return to the UK.

Be prepared to provide venues with personal contact details and answer COVID-19 health screening questions.

3. Risks

Although the level of infection in the population has reduced, Opera Anywhere has to assume that during a global pandemic, when there is COVID-19 presence in virtually every locale, every event goer and member of the company could transmit the virus. This means that taking appropriate safety and risk management measures is crucial.

The potential impact of infections on individuals and their families is well-publicised and this is a priority in taking steps to minimise the risk. Opera Anywhere wishes to uphold the highest standards to protect its performers, Opera Anywhere's reputation, the venues where we operate and the wider industry.

Opera Anywhere is a touring company that draws on performers who live in different places and who are together for only a brief period. This leads to a slightly different risk profile than would be the case with a fixed team and the need for slightly stricter measures.

4. Social Distancing

Principal: Maintain social distancing wherever possible. This applies to all parts of a premises or venue, not just the performance space.

In practice:

BECTU advice is that reducing distance from 2m to 1m increases the risk of transmission by as much as 70%. These measures are intended to reduce the risk of transmission during rehearsal, pre-performance, performance, interval and post-performance:

1. Maintain 2m social distance in all areas where possible, including green rooms and off-stage areas.
2. Increase the frequency with which people wash their hands.
3. Limit the number of people each person has contact with.
4. Clean surfaces frequently.
5. Keep activity time as short as possible.
6. Use back-to-back or side-to-side positioning (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible.
7. Use on-line tools for rehearsals and production development meetings wherever possible.
8. Provide space for performers to be socially distanced from each other and from any audience, production team members or other individuals, wherever possible during rehearsal, pre-production and performance.
9. Work outdoors where possible. Where this is not possible, make sure that the rehearsal, and performance areas, have adequate ventilation.
10. Organise repertoire, rehearsal and performance to avoid situations where performers cannot socially distance.

- 11.Reduce as far as possible any time that individuals are not able to maintain social distancing.
- 12.Reduce group and cast sizes to maintain social distancing.
- 13.Use floor tape, paint or markers to indicate areas to help maintain social distance, where possible.
- 14.Ask performers, musicians and crew to bring their own food and stay on-site to reduce contact outside of the venue.

5. Travel to Venue

Principal: Maintain social distancing wherever possible and ensure hand-washing upon arrival.

In practice:

1. Avoid using public transport where possible. If using public transport is necessary, follow instructions to wear a face covering.
2. Wherever possible travel by personal transport.
3. For those that have to travel with people outside of their households follow the guidance in [2] and try to:
 - share the transport with the same people each time;
 - keep to small groups of people at any one time;
 - open windows for ventilation;
 - travel side by side or behind other people and face away from each other;
 - consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle;
 - clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch;
 - wear a face covering.
4. Use hand-washing facilities (or hand sanitiser where not possible) when you arrive.

6. Personal Clothing

Principal: Minimise the risk of virus being passed on through contact with clothing,

In practice:

1. Wrap coats and other items of clothing in a clear plastic bag when removed.

7. Singers

Singing, especially in groups, is considered a higher risk activity because of the potential for aerosol production and the absence presently of developed scientific analysis to assess this specific risk.

Objective: To minimise the risk of transmission whilst singing.

In practice:

1. Limit singing in groups to group sizes which are as small as possible in one discrete space.
2. Operate outdoors wherever possible.
3. If singing indoors, limit the numbers to account for ventilation of the space and the ability to observe extended social distancing.
4. For singers working with other individuals, wherever possible, maintain social distancing of 2m between singers, position side-to-side or back-to-back and avoiding singing face-to-face.
5. Observe extended social distancing of at least 3m between singers singing face-to-face, and between singers, musicians and members of the audience.

8. Set Design, Stage Management, Get-in to Get-out

Objective: To reduce transmission and maintain social distancing where possible whilst and constructing and striking the set by minimising close proximity work.

In practice:

1. Minimise the number of pieces and props needed.
2. Restrict prop handling to the minimum possible number of people.
3. Assign specific hand-held props to specific performers.
4. Avoid different cast members sitting on the same set props without the prop being sanitised.
5. Clean props after every performance and, where possible, between uses if handled by different people.
6. Minimise the use of printed scripts and scores during rehearsal. Ask performers to be off-book before rehearsal. Where individuals need to have access to their own printed material make sure they keep it in their possession .
7. Restrict handling of props on set to a dedicated crew member and relevant cast.
8. Limit the number involved in loading and unloading the van and working on the set.
9. Wear (personal or single-use) gloves when unloading or loading set or props.
10. Do not allow members of the public, friends or family access backstage.

9. Green Rooms: Costumes, Makeup and Hair

Objective: To reduce transmission and maintain social distancing where possible whilst managing costumes, makeup and hair.

In Practice:

1. Follow social distancing guidelines in green rooms and dressing rooms.
2. Reduce the risk of cross-contamination by:
 - Sanitising and ventilating changing areas between use;
 - Separating individual performers' costumes in plastic bag;
 - Hanging performers' own clothes inside a clean plastic cover;
 - Launder costumes between each use and cover individually in plastic covers after cleaning.
3. Reduce the number of costume changes.
4. Musicians should arrive at a performance venue or premises in the clothes they will wear for the performance or change in different areas to those used by performers.
5. Performers must not share make-up. Wherever possible they should use their own, personal, make-up.
6. Performers should apply and remove their own make-up and style their own hair.
7. Position hair and make-up stations to allow appropriate social distancing or use screens between stations where space constraints preclude this.
8. Limit the time spent in a hair and make-up chairs whenever possible.
9. Increase equipment and surface hygiene. For example, use air borne sanitising sprays, maintain minimum equipment, sterilise and disinfect equipment and surfaces after each application.

10. Staging/Blocking

Objective: To reduce transmission and maintain social distancing where possible during rehearsal and performance.

In practice:

1. Determine how wings and off-stage areas can be used to minimise possible interaction between singers.
2. Provide markers on-stage for singers to adhere to social distancing.
3. Limit the staging of the performance to the stage area and exclude directions for the performers to enter or exit the stage area through the audience or to move amongst the audience.

4. Ensure:

- 3m distance maintained between singers when they are singing face-to-face.
- 2m distance maintained between performers wherever possible.
- At least 3m distance between singers and audience.
- Any audience interaction is carried out at appropriate social distance.

11. Band Areas

Objective: To reduce risk of working in band area and minimise the risk of transmission whilst playing wind instruments

In practice:

1. Reduce the number of musicians using the band area, for example by moving them to other locations within the performance space to enable social distancing to be possible.
2. Clean any shared instruments, such as pianos, before use.
3. Mark up the band area so that all musicians are clear about their spacing and social distancing (ensuring the extended distance required for wind and instruments).
4. Position instrumentalists side-to-side or back-to-back when feasible even when following the required distance.
5. If 2m distancing is not possible, use a screen between individual wind players and other musicians, performers and audience,
6. Maintain the appropriate distance between players in the band area and anyone on stage or in the audience.

12. Sound and Lighting

Objective: To reduce transmission and maintain social distancing where possible whilst managing sound and lighting.

In practice:

1. In an indoor venue create a screen around sound and lighting desks to create a barrier which aerosols do not pass through between the tech team, audience or other crew.
2. In an outdoor venue position the sound and lighting desks at least 4m from audience seating, musicians, performers, other crew or venue staff.
3. Where the sound or lighting desk is positioned close to audience seating, consider leaving empty the closest row of seats.
4. Regularly clean light and sound desks, lighting equipment, microphones and battery packs.

13. Programme Sales

Objective: To manage retail purchases to maintain social distancing

In practice:

1. Where possible provide programmes in digital format
2. Consider allowing guests to pre-order and collect programmes at designated points throughout the venue to maximise social distancing and reduce pinch points.
3. Avoid selling programmes inside or outside the auditoria, or at points of site of ingress or egress where crowds and queues may form and make social distancing harder to observe.
4. Using screens to create a physical barrier between staff / volunteers and customers at concessions points.
5. Performers cannot assist with any Front of House duties.
6. Minimise time spent in conversation with guests.
7. Where possible use card or other forms of digital payments.