

Back to the Stage: - NODASafe Covid 19 Areas for Consideration

Date:	Production:	Covid 19 – Production Manager:
Dates of Performances/Rehearsals:		Duration of Performances/Rehearsals:

Activity / Show Element:	Hazards involved:	Persons in danger: [e.g. Cast & crew, public etc]	Generic Control Measures to be Considered (Though not limited to those stated)
COVID 19 AND INFECTION CONTROL			
<p>Please Note: -The following areas are for consideration prior to undertaking any public performances at either your own premises (that your society controls) or that of a third party. These considerations should <u>always be read</u> with the up-to-date guidance provided by your country’s government. Extreme caution prior to booking and to undertaking performances should be exercised. NODASafe and NODA are not, by publishing these areas for consideration, encouraging performances to recommence, but are providing guidance for societies to fully prepare themselves and plan for the reopening of community theatre. Such reopening depends on the guidance from your country’s government, which is subject to rapid change. The information within this guide is written with the assumption that the society owns their own building for performance. However, many societies will be performing within theatres that are either privately or publicly owned. All considerations within this document should be read in conjunction with the venue’s own risk assessments, and alongside the guidance / legislation provided by your society’s government. <i>Links are provided at the end of this document to each government and their guidance / regulation.</i></p>			
Prior to Travelling to the Rehearsal room	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Cast, Director, Musical Director, Pianist / Band	<p><i>Please refer to your country’s’ specific guidance before planning or carrying out any rehearsals including whether they are permitted and what the current restrictions are. A documented risk assessment should then be completed prior to rehearsals taking place.</i></p> <p>Controls that will need to be planned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone taking part in rehearsals needs to take responsibility for evaluating their own fitness to travel to the rehearsal. This means being aware of their state of health. • Familiarise yourself with NHS guidance on known COVID-19 symptoms. • The common indicators of a COVID-19 infection are often: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new continuous cough ○ High temperature ○ A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste • It has become clear that COVID-19 can manifest itself in a wide variety of symptoms, some of which may even appear to be a common cold. • If you begin to feel unwell in any way, please do not come to rehearsal. If you continue to feel unwell request a COVID-19 test and assume you have the virus until shown otherwise.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those feeling unwell should not come to rehearsals if they have any symptoms. • In addition to having symptoms, no one should travel to the rehearsal if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is within 10 days of a COVID-19 positive test result ○ They are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test ○ They have been asked to quarantine by NHS Test and Trace ○ They have returned from a country where quarantine restrictions apply • Everyone attending a rehearsal will be asked to sign in and this will include a declaration that they have no COVID-19 symptoms and have no reason to quarantine before being allowed to take part in the rehearsal process. Additional guidance on this should be sought from your country's regulations. • Individuals who are deemed to be at increased risk (clinically vulnerable) to the effects of COVID-19 should not take part in rehearsals wherever possible. An additional personal risk assessment may be required in such instances. Additional guidance on this should be sought from your country's regulations. • Planning of rehearsals – only essential persons should be in the room. Careful planning of the rehearsal process is required to keep numbers in the room to an absolute minimum. • Limit the amount of time rehearsals are scheduled for. Avoid lengthy rehearsals in order to reduce contact time between participants. • The cleaning of the rehearsal room should be undertaken prior to rehearsal taking place. This can also include the maintenance of such equipment as air conditioning units. Additional guidance on required cleaning protocols should be sought from your country's regulations. • If the rehearsal room has been empty and unused (and if it is your responsibility) then societies should be minded to take into account all issues in relation to safety compliance. Items to consider (but not limited to) are: <i>Gas Safety systems, Electrical – portable and fixed, fire prevention – alarms, portable fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and water management (Legionella)</i>. Also, if the rehearsal room has been vacant and is built pre 2000, then the management of asbestos should be considered. If the rehearsal room is under the control of a landlord / third party, it would be advised that surety that these issues (along with any covid 19 protocols) is sought from them and records kept.
Rehearsal Room	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Cast, Director, Musical Director, Pianist / Band	<p><i>Please refer to your country's specific guidance before planning or carrying out any rehearsals including whether they are permitted and what the current restrictions are. A documented risk assessment should then be completed prior to rehearsals taking place.</i></p> <p>Controls that will be needed to be planned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of rehearsals – only essential persons should be in the room. Careful planning of the rehearsal process is required to keep numbers in the room to the absolute minimum. • In order to reduce the risk of infection, consideration should be given to rehearsals in outside spaces

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning protocol for Covid 19 – assessment should be undertaken to look at areas such as toilets, pinch points for movement and touch points, such as doors and handles. • Increased Hand sanitiser stations at entrances and exits, along with plentiful supplies of hand washing soaps within the toilets. Individuals are to wash their hands thoroughly and use hand sanitisers provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On arrival at rehearsal room ○ Before and after handling equipment / props ○ Before and after eating ○ After sneezing/coughing ○ Regularly throughout the rehearsal. • A plan for the safe movement of people should be considered along with signage. One way systems are preferable or protocols put in place where passing places are unavoidable. • Sign in sheets should be prepared for track and trace – refer to your country’s guidance on procedures for this. • Scripts should be provided for each individual. The sharing of scripts / libretto should not be permitted within rehearsals. This must also be adhered to in performance settings as well as the rehearsal room. • Travelling to rehearsals. You will need to consider advice given to your members about the sharing of vehicles when coming to a rehearsal. • Inductions will be given at first rehearsals for all those taking part, and at regular intervals thereafter as the measures in place are subject to change. The inductions will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signage ○ Social distancing measures taken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For rehearsing ▪ For singing ▪ Break times ▪ One-way systems in operation ▪ Use of masks/face coverings ○ Welfare facilities ○ Hand hygiene ○ Emergency procedures • Social distancing following current guidance is required. This needs to be planned prior to the commencement of rehearsals. Additional guidance on this should be sought from your country’s regulations. • Access to fresh air within the premises is recommended. The opening of doors, final exit fire doors and windows is recommended. If internal fire doors are propped opened for ventilation purposes, please

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			<p>amend your fire safety plan to reflect your remedial actions if an emergency evacuation were necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the Covid 19 risk assessment and rules for the rehearsal room venue, if not owned and controlled by the society • Breaks and seating whilst not rehearsing – Additional guidance on this should be sought from your country’s regulations with specific regard to social distancing. • Use of PPE – please refer to your country’s regulations. The wearing of masks would be strongly recommended. • First Aiders should be aware of and comfortable with the implications of providing first aid under COVID-19 conditions. • First Aid boxes should be checked for missing and/or out of date items. In addition, COVID-19 related aides should be considered such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A fluid-repellent surgical mask ○ Disposable gloves ○ Eye protection ○ Apron or other suitable covering • Specific information on first aid in the pandemic can be found here. https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/first-aid-and-medicals/first-aid-certificate-coronavirus.htm • Should someone begin to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or is observed by others to be exhibiting them while at rehearsal, they should stop what they are doing immediately and inform the director. Primary indicators of COVID-19 infection being: A new continuous cough; High temperature; A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste. These are not the only symptoms of COVID-19, so any sense of illness should be treated as a potential COVID-19 infection until known otherwise. Additional guidance on this should be sought from your country’s regulations and what you need to do in terms of reporting a COVID-19 breach. • <u>Text, movement and dance – Please refer to your country’s advice, guidance and regulation.</u> • <u>Singing and the playing of brass / wind instruments - Please refer to your country’s advice, guidance and regulation.</u> <p>Please note that the above information on singing / movement should also apply to the performance, not just the rehearsal process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving the rehearsal rooms. Staggered leaving should be considered, with those rehearsing leaving in single file (or in family groups). This will reduce the amount of passing taking place. People should be encouraged not to stay and chat within the rehearsal rooms. • Cleaning protocols should then be considered for chairs, props, scripts, equipment, staging etc., prior to leaving the rehearsal room. In order to keep the environment clean, societies need to be plan for

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			<p>frequent cleaning of rehearsal areas, audience areas, stages, dressing rooms and equipment between use, using normal cleaning products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent cleaning of objects and surfaces that are touched regularly such as coffee or vending machines or staff handheld devices and making sure there are adequate disposal arrangements for cleaning products. • Extra, frequent deep cleaning of shared spaces such as audition spaces, rehearsal and backstage areas. • Owners keeping instruments and other personal kit clean, and not sharing these items with others. • Clearing workspaces and removing waste and belongings from the work area at the end of a rehearsal or performance. • If you are cleaning after a known or suspected case of COVID-19 then you should refer to the specific <u>guidance</u>.
<h2>Performances</h2> <p>Please Note: -The following areas are for consideration prior to undertaking any public performances at either your own premises (that your society controls) or that of a third party. These considerations should <u>always be read</u> with the up to date guidance provided by your country’s government. Extreme caution prior to booking and to undertaking performances should be exercised. NODASafe and NODA are not, by publishing these areas for consideration, encouraging performances to recommence, but are providing guidance for societies to fully prepare themselves and plan for the reopening of community theatre. Such reopening depends on the guidance from your country’s government, which is subject to rapid change. The information within this consideration guide is written with the assumption that the society owns their own building for performance. However, many societies will be performing within theatres that are either privately or publicly owned. All of the considerations within this document should be read in conjunction with the venue’s own risk assessments, and alongside the guidance / legislation provided by your society’s government.</p>			
<p>Prior to Performances – Programme Management Considerations</p>	<p>Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable</p>	<p>Choosing your programme / show / play / production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to the length of performance. Shorter productions, that don’t involve intervals may be preferable in the short term. • Cast size – as previously mentioned should also be considered, with fewer people involved. • The technical aspects of the performance, and what it might involve in terms of lighting, scenery and backstage movement will also need to be considered. Movement in close proximity to others in a backstage environment will need to be planned and numbers kept to a minimum where possible. <p>In order to reduce the risk of infection, consideration to outside performances should be made</p>
<p>Prior to Performances Audience Management Considerations</p>	<p>Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking</p>	<p>Please refer to your country’s advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance.</p> <p>Areas that you will need to consider prior to completing the risk assessment will be (in conjunction with your country’s guidance):</p>

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		– those who are potentially vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the size of audience, the arrangements and performances staged are compliant with social distancing requirements. • Reduce the premises or venue capacity and limit ticket sales to a volume which ensures compliant social distancing can be maintained at all times. • If the performance venue has multi occupation and simultaneous productions, then planning to avoid audiences mixing at pinch points such as at bars and in toilets should be completed. Timings of performances should be considered so that overlaps of audiences are kept to an absolute minimum. • Audience flow should be planned for – how your audience both enters, travels through the building, uses the facilities such as toilets and bars / confectionary stalls should be considered, alongside how they exit the building. One way systems are a popular way of managing crowds that help to reduce the amount of ‘crossing’ of people. • Consider where crowding could take place such as at points of ingress and egress, car parking, handwashing and toilet facilities, waiting areas, bars and restaurants and areas in proximity to performance area and take appropriate measures to manage the social distancing and movement of people • An enhanced cleaning regime should be planned for, taking into consideration thoroughfares, seating, toilets, bars, entrances, doors, touch points and pinch points. • Consider your volunteers (front of house staff) and where they might come into contact with large numbers of people. Consideration for their health and wellbeing will be key. Inductions and safety briefs prior to any performances would need to be carried out. Areas to be discussed at such briefings should include (but are not limited to): <i>Emergency procedures, safe seating of persons, communication of covid rules to audience members, the use of PPE by both audience members and volunteers, use of toilet procedures, the sale of alcohol, sale of confectionary and other merchandise, the use of screens, cleaning protocols prior to and after the performance, hand hygiene, social distancing protocols, safe egress of the theatre or space.</i> • Front of house staff and cast / crew should – wherever possible, not mix. This would also be the case with audience and cast / crew. The ability to reduce the amount of interaction between these parties should be planned for. • The sale of alcohol should be carefully planned and minimised where possible. Impairment in relation to social distancing is something that can be avoided with careful consideration to its sale.
Prior to Performances Ticket Management / Contact, Track and Trace.	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking	<p>Please refer to your country’s advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to keep both society volunteers, theatre staff and the audience members safe, societies will need to ensure that they abide by the contact, track and trace for the NHS. Record keeping of

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		– those who are potentially vulnerable	<p>ticket sales, so that every person in the audience can be traced in the event of an infection outbreak is key. Refer to NHS guidelines for this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to cut down the amount of handling of physical tickets, e-ticketing should be considered wherever possible. This will also help (within GDPR guidelines) the tracing of audience members in the event of an infection outbreak linked to your performance. • Where possible the purchase of e-tickets should be promoted. Where in-person sales are unavoidable (such as just prior to a performance) a contactless sales process should be promoted. • Maintaining social distancing whilst checking tickets and directing people to their seats should be considered and planned for. • Ensuring that audience members do not congregate in doorways and other pinch points should be considered. • Societies should review their refund policy for persons who are unable to attend due to having to self-isolate.
Prior to Performances The Sale of Alcohol, confectionary and other items	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable	<p>Please refer to your country's advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sale of items such as alcohol, confectionary and other merchandise can cause a considerable pinch point, prior to the start and during an interval. Consideration as to how you manage this area of contact is key. • Managing the flow of audience members to such areas is considered to be key to success in this issue. Reducing the amount of crossing at pinch points is the objective. • Consider audiences being allowed to pre-order drinks for the interval and for those drinks to be safely consumed from their seats. • Removal of items from reach, such as confectionary, and replacing with a more serviced approach. • The use of screens should be considered, if appropriate, in order to maintain a physical barrier between the person selling the confectionary or drinks and the audience member. This will help to protect the person selling when coming into close contact with multiple persons. • Consideration for the sale or publishing of programmes / cast list to move to online only.
Prior to Performances Planning the through flow of audience within the building	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable	<p>Please refer to your country's advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The safe movement in, through and out of the theatre or space is the key objective and being able to do so whilst maintaining social distancing. Areas to consider will be:- • Limiting the number of entrances and exits. • Seating plans to include social distancing. Guidance should be sought from your country's government guidance on the exact parameters of how to seat people safely. However, the

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			<p>general principal of audience members being seated in family bubbles would usually apply. This would need to be taken into consideration through your booking system and also being prepared before the performances for group numbers. The generally accepted rule at present is 2 metres but this can alter from country to country and is subject to review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing those exits with theatre / society personnel– additional personnel may be required in order to do this safely. • Use of outside areas where audience members can safely queue prior to entering the building. You may wish to consider the management of ticket checking outside, should this be possible. This may require communication with the theatre owner and/or the local authority. • As previously mentioned, a plan of the through-flow of the building and how you can simply manage this should be put in place. • The designation (as previously mentioned) of trained / briefed staff to manage any areas and pinch points where passing / crossing can happen should be planned for. • One-way systems should be considered as part of the flow plan. Taking into consideration people who may need extra assistance such as the elderly, the young, visually impaired, hearing impaired and the mobility impaired. • Any such systems need to be in line with your / the building’s emergency plan for fire and other incidents. • As previously mentioned, the separation of cast / crew from front of house and audience is something that should be planned for.
<p>Prior to Performances</p> <p>Managing the seating of an audience, cleaning & ventilation protocols</p>	<p>Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable</p>	<p>Please refer to your country’s advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As previously stated, the general principle in relation to social distancing has been 2 metres. This is subject to change and may differ from country to country. • Societies alongside theatre management will need to consider the seating plan prior to the release of tickets to ensure that family support bubbles and family households can be seated safely, whilst maintaining social distancing • Face Coverings are still required indoors within the UK and staff should be deployed to remind audience members that they will need to keep the face covering on whilst in their seat and if moving about the building. • As mentioned previously, societies will need to plan to seat audience members whilst maintaining wherever possible social distancing from the staff / volunteer. • You may need to think about additional signage within the auditorium / space and common areas to remind people of the procedures and their responsibilities to wear a face covering.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the programming of a show to be shorter in duration (and therefore reducing the amount of time people stay within the auditorium) is preferable, this may not always be an option. Therefore, societies should consider longer intervals so that the managing of people using the toilet facilities would be easier. • Ventilation before, during and after a performance is a key consideration in the reduction of spread. If doors can be kept open prior to the start of the performance, this will aid the through-flow of fresh air. Any ventilation systems employed within the theatre / space will need to be thoroughly cleaned, tested, serviced and calibrated prior a performance. • Where there are children in the audience, societies will need to think about how they communicate to parents that the child will need to abide by any covid rules of behaviour. Those over the age of 11 in the UK are required to wear a face covering, unless exempt. • Enhanced cleaning regimes should be planned for prior the opening of the theatre / space. This is usually the responsibility of the duty holder (theatre manager / owner), however societies will be minded to gain surety from third party landlords / theatre management that such protocols are in place and are being carried out to the latest guidance (as set out by your country). • Additionally, the proper ventilation (either natural or mechanical means) should be sought and additional protocols put in place. The through-flow of air is critical to ensure that the risk of Covid 19 spread is reduced. Societies will need to gain assurances or put in place (if they are the duty holder) proportionate steps to ensure ventilation is managed adequately within the venue. Additional guidance can be sought from the Health and Safety Executive or, in the first instance, through your country's guidance. • In order to keep the environment clean, societies need to plan for frequent cleaning of work areas, audience areas, stages, dressing rooms and equipment between use, using normal cleaning products. • Frequent cleaning of objects and surfaces that are touched regularly such as coffee or vending machines or staff handheld devices and making sure there are adequate disposal arrangements for cleaning products. • Extra, frequent deep cleaning of shared spaces such as audition spaces, rehearsal and backstage areas. • Owners keeping instruments and other personal kit clean, and not sharing these items with others. • Clearing workspaces and removing waste and belongings from the work area at the end of a rehearsal or performance. • If you are cleaning after a known or suspected case of COVID-19 then you should refer to the specific <u>guidance</u>.
<p>Prior to Performances</p> <p>Hygiene, Handwashing and Sanitisation Stations</p>	<p>Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking</p>	<p>Please refer to your country's advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p>

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		– those who are potentially vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Societies should plan on using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency, avoid touching your face and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available. Providing hand sanitiser in multiple accessible locations in addition to washrooms and toilets. Consideration should be given to wheelchair users when deciding where these should be placed Setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets to ensure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved as much as possible. Enhancing cleaning for busy areas. Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection. Providing hand drying facilities – either paper towels or electrical dryers <p><i>These steps may be the responsibility of the theatre management (where the society is not the theatre owner / duty holder) but the society should look to ensure that these steps are in place for their safety and that of their patrons.</i></p>
Prior to Performances Handling Props, Musical Instruments, and other items.	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Performers, Stage Crew, Musicians, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable	<p>Please refer to your country's advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Societies will need to look to set up protocols so that items such as sound equipment (head mics) are not shared but designated to individual performers Societies will need to ensure that musicians are managed within pit areas and social distancing is maintained. This may require reduced numbers in the orchestra Props and other items will be subject to a cleaning regime at the end of rehearsals / performances. Where props have to be handled by multiple persons, a plan should be put in place for cleaning in between various handlings – where this is possible. As with scripts, the sharing of scores should be discouraged wherever possible. The moving and handling of large instruments should be planned for and additional lifting equipment may be required.
Prior to Performances Backstage Planning. including stage / set design / construction. Dressing room use. Costume Fitting, Hair and Make up. Lighting	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Performers, Stage Crew, Musicians, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable	<p>Please refer to your country's advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ABTT works closely with the Health and Safety Executive and publishes guides to work practices in the live events industry. Access to these guides in relation to set design / construction along with stage management, lighting and sound can be found here. Although these guides are aimed at the professional theatre, they will be useful additional resources for societies, when read along with the guidance from each country. The aforementioned social distancing measures – laid out by each country, will still remain in place for the activities mentioned. Some may require close proximity work, where social

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and Sound, Stage Management.			<p>distancing may not be possible. Again, refer to the guidance from your country in order to mitigate those risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound and lighting desks may need to be considered, so that they could potentially be screened from the audience, and therefore protecting the operator from coming into contact with a large number of people. This may be the responsibility of the theatre management, but it should be considered by the society. • The society should positively plan for additional time for cleaning protocols during Get in and Get out of theatres. This can apply to backstage areas such as dressing rooms, common passageways, stage areas and toilets / washrooms. • Stage Management planning for a society may include such measures as creating one way systems on stage for cast and crew to use. Also, the restriction of handling props to actor and certain crew members only. Also, the cleaning of such props during and after a performance. • Make up planning can be extremely difficult to maintain social distancing. However, societies should encourage make up to be completed by individual performers, using their own designated make up only. Where this cannot happen, in the case of the specialist make up provision, plans should be put in place for the safe use of make-up and that a suitable face covering should be used by the make-up artist at all times and refer diligently to your country's guidelines for professional hair and make-up safety for covid.
Prior to Performances Communication	Exposure to infected persons leading to development of the COVID-19 symptoms.	Performers, Stage Crew, Front of House volunteers, members of the public, people who require special checking – those who are potentially vulnerable	<p>Please refer to your country's advice, guidance and regulation on this and complete a risk assessment prior to a performance taking place.</p> <p>The communication of safe working practices will mean different things to different people, at different times. Therefore, it is important that the society plans for effective communication prior to both rehearsals and performance. It is also important that all persons involved in the management of the production communicate effectively with all those that are potentially involved. Persons likely to require training, information or instruction could be (though not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performers • Directors • Musical Director • Orchestra • Theatre management • Front of House Volunteers • Lighting and Sound team • Stage management team • Theatre staff

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box office staff • Local authorities • Licence holders • Chaperones • Parents of young persons • Audience members / patrons <p>The return to theatre for the aforementioned groups of people can and will be a nervous proposition for some and relatively straightforward for others. However, all will be subject to a huge change in how they produce theatre (and their role in it), for some time to come. It is important, therefore, to ensure that clear information is communicated to them prior, during and after the performances / return to the theatre. Some areas that societies should consider would be: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment of a Covid 19 – infection control production manager. This person would co-ordinate the risk assessments and communication of production controls across all the various job roles and would liaise with key stakeholders. This would ensure that gaps in Covid protocol (and therefore issues with higher risk of transmission) are kept to a minimum. • Holding meetings (remote Zoom / Teams) with casts / crew / front of house / orchestra members, theatre staff prior to the various stages of the production process in order to make sure that issues around the production and infection control are managed properly. • Liaising with the local community – perhaps by social media, to establish their concerns about coming back to theatre. Using the controls and risk assessments that you will be able to put into place, using all the government guidance from your country, you can look to allay some of their fears and concerns. • Use your safety journey as a message to your patrons, members and audience. As you plan each step of the journey to safely return to theatre, share that experience with your audience to help build trust.

Links and Further Support

Useful Links

NodaSafe – email: nodasafe@noda.org.uk.

England Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts#sec-2-4>

Wales Guidance: <https://gov.wales/rehearsing-performing-and-taking-part-performing-arts-guidance-phased-return-html?fbclid=IwAR0X9tGSaxL6bgIoGiTYIhvaUHgi4OObuBTK9X6REDMVohvnhf4GzBphg#section-50284>

Scotland Guidance: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-performing-arts-and-venues-sector/pages/operational-guide-for-non-professionals-gathering-for-performing-arts-activities/#Nonprofessional>

Northern Ireland:- <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>

Health and Safety Executive: www.hse.gov.uk

ABTT: - <https://www.abtt.org.uk/resources-guidance/covid19/>

For standard risk assessment templates and blanks, please go to the NodaSafe page on the Noda Website to download.