



Safer at Home

STREAMING MEDIA

COVID-19 REOPENING GUIDANCE

GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC REOPENING TASKFORCE



We recognize that some performing arts centers may want to open and put on events to make them available to customers by way of streaming media services (i.e. no in-person audience performances). Because of the nature of the performing arts, persons engaged in these activities are likely at higher risk for COVID-19 transmission in the group setting. For example, theater performances usually involve close personal contact; many instrumental performances involve forced blowing which may increase dispersion of respiratory droplets over distances further than 6 feet, and many musical instruments have “spit valves” to release built up respiratory secretions into the environment; and the act of singing (increased vocal cord vibration) may promote aerosolization of respiratory droplets that can facilitate further transmission, as has been documented in one recent report of a high COVID-19 attack rate following [exposure at a choir practice](#). Therefore, the guidance below is intended to help mitigate, but not entirely eliminate, risk of COVID-19 transmission for the performing arts.

General Guidance to Protect Performing Arts Staff:

1. Review and follow the [Universal Guidelines](#) for All New Hampshire Employers and Employees.
2. Review and follow CDC [guidance for businesses and employers](#).
3. Review and follow CDC [guidance for cleaning and disinfection](#).
4. If providing food services, follow [Food Service Industry](#) guidance.
5. All staff must wear reusable/washable cloth face coverings over their nose and mouth at while at work, except during performances when cloth face coverings would be prohibitive. This includes wearing a cloth face covering when in common areas, outdoors when other are in close proximity, and in shared staff areas (e.g. offices and break rooms), even if other individuals are not immediately present.
 - a. Provide training on cloth face coverings based on CDC guidance for [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#).
 - b. Review the NH DHHS information about [using cloth face coverings](#).
 - c. People wearing face coverings must not touch their eyes, nose, mouth, or face, or adjust their face covering without first sanitizing hands. After touching face or adjusting face covering, hands must be sanitized.
6. Staff should practice frequent hand hygiene by either washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. This includes, but is not limited to, hand hygiene upon arrive at the facility, before and after meals or snacks, before and after going to the bathroom, before and after touching a person’s face or face covering, and prior to leaving the facility.
7. Commonly touched surfaces and work areas should be frequently cleaned and disinfected according to [CDC guidance](#) at a minimum every 2 hours and at the end of each performance.
8. Staff, should be reminded to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others whenever possible. There should be a “safety officer” assigned to each performance



or facility whose job is to clean and disinfect and ensure appropriate social distancing is taking place.

Employee/Staff Protection:

1. Staff must be provided with education and training about safe practices as it relates to hand hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), and illness policies outlined in the [Universal Guidelines](#) and in this document.
2. Staff must work at least 6 feet apart from others at all times (whether indoors or outdoors). Weather permitting, breaks and lunches should be outdoors when possible.
3. Require all staff to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to supervisor.
4. Staff should be screened daily on arrival to the facility by asking if the individual:
 - a. Has any symptoms of COVID-19 (see [Universal Guidelines](#) for list of potential symptoms) or fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher.
 - a. Has had any close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days. (**NOTE:** Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question)
 - b. Traveled in the past 14 days either:
 5. Internationally (outside the U.S.),
 6. By cruise ship, or
 7. Domestically (within the U.S.) outside of NH, VT, or ME on public transportation (e.g., bus, train, plane, etc.).
8. Person(s) with any COVID-19 symptoms, those who report close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or those reporting travel risk factors should **not** be allowed into the facility:
 - a. Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and [self-isolate](#) at home following the instructions below.
 - b. Asymptomatic persons reporting close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or who report one of the traveled-related risk factors should [self-quarantine](#) for 14 days from their last exposure or return from travel.
 - c. **NOTE:** Healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer “no” to this question
9. Person(s) with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 must stay home until symptom-based criteria are met for [discontinuation of isolation](#):
 - a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

AND

 - b. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (recovery is defined as resolution of fever off any fever reducing medications plus improvement in



other symptoms)

Consumer Protection:

Consumer protections do not apply as no audience or public will be allowed within the performing arts studio. Only artists or employees or contract employees will be onsite, social distancing protocols will be in effect throughout the venue.

Performances are to be streamed through media.

Business Process Adaptations:

1. All facilities should have a communication plan to educate staff about COVID-19 health and safety practices at the facility.
2. Provide sanitization materials to staff, such as hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes, and make alcohol-based hand rub available throughout the facility, including at entrances, in common areas, and in areas of performance.
3. Clean and disinfect all common use surfaces including door handles, screens, phones, pens, keyboards and other areas of hand contact every two hours, at a minimum, and shared use tools and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after each use, per [CDC guidance](#).
4. Restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities.
5. Practices and performances should be conducted outdoors whenever possible.
6. When outdoors, performer group sizes are limited to 10 people total (excluding other support or media streaming staff), and performers should be seated or positioned more than 6 feet apart.
7. When indoors or in enclosed spaces, performer group sizes are limited to 5 people or fewer (excluding other support or media streaming staff), and performers should be seated or positioned 8-10 feet apart, this is particularly important for performers playing wind instruments or singing.
8. Performers playing an instrument that releases spit/saliva must collect those secretions on a personal cloth that is either then discarded, or taken home by the performer to be laundered. Saliva may not be deposited on the floor. After handling the cloth, performers must perform hand hygiene.
9. If performance involves theater, theater performers may not come within 6 feet of each other, even during the performance.
10. Musical instruments should be handled only by the performer and not shared.
11. Facility should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (including the floor) at the end of each performance.

