



**衛生防護中心**  
Centre for Health Protection

**Infection Control Branch**

**Health Advice on Prevention of Coronavirus Disease  
(COVID-19) for Performing Arts  
(Interim)**

**I. Disease information**

Please visit the following website for disease information, affected areas and updated information related to COVID-19:  
<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>

2. The Department of Health advises to organisers, performers and audiences of performing arts activities (including but not limited to music, dance, theatre and Chinese opera) that they should take the following precautionary measures to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

**II. Preventive measures to be adopted by the organiser**

**A. Venue**

- (a) Conduct a **specific risk assessment** for the venue and the proposed activities.
- (b) **Capacity** for each performance needs to be monitored. Limit the number of audiences and performers. Ensure there is adequate ventilation and adequate social distancing.
- (c) **Limit the duration of opportunities for social interactions**, including rehearsals and performances.



- (d) **Discourage activities which can create aerosols** by audiences, such as shouting, chanting and singing along. Safer alternatives to cheering include clapping and using noisemakers.
- (e) Set up stations at the entrance with equipment for **temperature check**. Staff should wear **surgical masks** and **check temperature** for audiences upon entry to the venue and deny entry of those with fever.
- (f) Provide adequate **hand hygiene** facilities, such as 70 to 80% alcohol-based handrub at the main entrance and entries of halls. Provide surgical masks to audience if needed.
- (g) **Ensure adequate social distancing:**
  - i. Regulate the number and flow of audience entering and departing from the event site to ensure adequate social distancing as far as feasible. For example, opening and making full use of all entry/exit points of performance facilities.
  - ii. Staggering entry times for different performances at the same venue and institute measures such as single line queuing.
  - iii. Avoid overcrowding in toilets during breaks, entrances and exits before and after the performance.
  - iv. Avoid physical contacts as far as feasible (e.g. set up fences or barriers, floor stickers at enquiry counters and waiting areas).
  - v. Consider to suspend or taking extra precautionary measures for performance where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
  - vi. Audiences should be reminded to maintain social distancing as far as feasible.
- (h) **Seating arrangement for audiences**
  - i. All audiences are better to be seated than being allowed to stand (to help maintaining social distancing).
  - ii. Limit the number of audiences by following the prevailing government regulations
  - iii. Facilitate social distancing by seating arrangement via ticketing systems (e.g. arrange audiences to be seated in alternate seat / row).
- (i) **Stage management**
  - i. Reduce the number of performers on stage or site to maintain adequate social distancing as far as feasible.
  - ii. Use barriers to separate performers as far as feasible if social distancing cannot be maintained on stage or site. The partition

should be of sufficient height e.g. above head level or over the bell of instrument to prevent trajectory of droplets.

- iii. Use markers on-stage to ensure adequate social distancing if feasible.
  - iv. Marking clear routes on the stage for performers entering for and exiting from performance.
  - v. Minimise number of staff working back-stage and on-stage.
  - vi. Optimize use of wings so as to minimize possible interaction between people, for example adopting one-way traffic, using dedicated wings for stage managers and dressers, using dedicated rooms by different teams.
  - vii. Avoid overcrowding in changing rooms and shower (e.g. using half of the capacity or keeping at least 1.5 metres between users).
  - viii. Minimise sharing of common items. Props, equipment and instruments (e.g. musical instruments, drama equipment, microphones) need to be cleaned and disinfected properly after each use.
  - ix. Avoid sharing of personal items.
- (j) Water dispenser
- i. Forbid use of drinking fountains during the COVID-19 pandemic because of risk of cross-contamination (e.g. container and mouth inadvertently contacting the nozzle/ protective guard).
  - ii. As an alternative, users are advised to use a container (e.g. cup or bottle) to collect water from bottle-filling water dispensers while observing proper personal hygiene.
  - iii. Do not use bottle-filling water dispensers to wash hands / personal items.
  - iv. Water dispensers should be regularly cleaned and properly maintained.
- (k) Where possible, install facilities to encourage audiences to use their own mobile device / card for the following activities to minimise physical contacts of the same object by multiple persons, for example:
- i. ordering food from electronic menu
  - ii. electronic payment
- (l) Identify a room or area for isolation of audience / performer / staff who

becomes ill and pending to seek immediate medical consultation. Close off areas used by the sick until cleaning and disinfection done.

- (m) Keep a list of performers and duty staff list, which include their personal particulars and contact information to facilitate contact tracing when necessary.
- (n) Post up health education materials on hand hygiene, cough etiquette and COVID-19 in conspicuous sites to alert staff, performers and audiences. Relevant health education materials can be downloaded from the CHP website: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/464/102466.html>
- (o) Performances at outdoor venues/facilities are governed by Cap 599G (Prohibition on Group Gatherings).

## **B. Food Provision**

- (a) Display poster or make announcement in food premises, or add markings at queuing or waiting areas to remind audiences to maintain social distancing. Reserve tables online to reduce waiting time at queue if feasible.
- (b) Implement body temperature screening before entry to food premises.
- (c) Avoid table sharing for people from different households / groups.
- (d) Arrange tables in a way to ensure there is a distance of at least 1.5 metres or some form of partition which could serve as effective barrier between one table and another, and modify seating arrangements to reduce direct face to face encounter.
- (e) Provide 70-80% alcohol-based handrub.
- (f) Provide serving cutleries for customers to enhance personal and food hygiene.

## **C. Maintain Environmental Hygiene**

- (a) Maintain good ventilation
  - i. Switch on wall fan and any circulating or exhaust fan to enhance air movement. Fans should not be directly blowing from a group of people to another group.
  - ii. Keep windows open as appropriate and where possible.
  - iii. Ensure the air-conditioning system is functioning well with maximum fresh air supply (if feasible), clean the air filter and

ducting regularly.

- (b) Keep environment clean. Cleaning and disinfection must be carried out after each performance.
  - i. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as furniture, commonly shared items and floor with 1 in 99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), leave for 15 – 30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.
  - ii. If places are contaminated by respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, use absorbent disposable towels to wipe them away. After this, disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1 in 49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.
  - iii. Spraying disinfectants is not recommended as this practice could be harmful and would not reduce the risk of viral transmission.
- (c) Special attention to following areas
  - i. Areas with frequent access by members of the public (e.g. lifts, escalators, lobby entrances, waiting areas, corridors, guard booths, information counters and lounges): Clean and wipe at least twice daily.
  - ii. Frequently touched surfaces (e.g. buttons, handrails, handles and chairs): Clean and wipe at least twice daily and when visibly soiled.
  - iii. Garbage room: Properly clean up rubbish and waste stored in the garbage room every day. Clean and wipe related facilities at least twice daily.
  - iv. Clean the exhaust fan inside the lift regularly and keep it in good condition.

#### **D. Maintain Toilet Hygiene**

- (a) Keep toilets clean and dry.
- (b) Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfection.
- (c) Provide liquid soap and disposable paper towels for hand washing.
- (d) Ensure the flushing system of the toilet, and hands drying machines are in

proper function at all times.

- (e) After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs.
- (f) Ensure the water traps must be filled with water (including U-shaped water trap, bottled trap or anti-syphonage trap) to prevent foul odour and insects in the soil pipe from entering the premises. Pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet once a week.
- (g) Do not alter the drain and pipes without prior authorisation.  
[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/make\\_sure\\_the\\_trap\\_is\\_not\\_dry.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/make_sure_the_trap_is_not_dry.pdf)

### III. General Guidance to All

#### A. Performers

- (a) Performers should **check their temperature** before attending rehearsals and performance events. Those with fever, respiratory symptoms or sudden loss of taste/smell should cancel their participation, wear surgical mask and seek medical attention promptly.
- (b) Performers should **wear mask** as far as feasible.
- (c) Performers, especially those who cannot wear mask during performance with live audience, are encouraged to regularly test COVID-19 for early detection. Regular performers are suggested to conduct test every 10 days. It is advisable to have a negative test result (COVID-19 PCR nucleic acid) preferably within 72 hours prior to the first performance and tests conducted before should be properly recorded. A negative test result cannot replace wearing mask for performers who have no difficulties in wearing masks during performance.
- (d) All performers should perform **hand hygiene** before entering the venue, after end of each rehearsal and performance session.
- (e) Performers should ensure adequate **social distancing** especially when wearing mask is not feasible during performance.
- (f) **Special attention for rehearsals**
  - i. Plan for a phased return to rehearsal and training sessions before performance.
  - ii. Maintaining social distancing as far as feasible.
  - iii. Limit the number of performers as far as feasible.
  - iv. Limit the duration of social interaction as far as feasible.

- (g) Performers are encouraged to bring their own instruments (e.g. musical instrument, performing equipment) to rehearsal sessions and during performance.
- (h) **Special attention for live instrumental music**
  - i. Musicians should limit the number of performance groups in which they participate.
  - ii. Musicians playing instruments that require intentional expulsion of air should not sit directly opposite one another.
  - iii. Musicians who cannot wear mask. during performance should keep adequate social distancing from others or there should be effective partition between the wind players. ‘Adequate distance’ means there is a distance of at least 1.5 metres between the two while ‘effective partition’ means there is some form of partition with sufficient height (e.g. above head level) which could serve as effective barrier between the two. The length of the instrument should be considered as an extension of the individual and included when determining the spacing between musicians.
- (i) **Special attention if performers need to stay in overnight room**
  - i. Single room is preferred.
  - ii. If need to share room, rooms should not be overcrowded and beds should be at least 1.5 metres apart.
  - iii. People need to maintain social distancing from others while using these facilities.

## **B. Audiences**

- (a) Browse the organiser’s official website in advance for performance schedule, on-site facilities and activity arrangement, such as online ticketing and reservation.
- (b) Audiences should **check their temperature** before attend performance event. Those with fever or respiratory symptoms or sudden loss of taste/smell should cancel their participation, wear surgical mask and seek medical attention promptly.
- (c) Audiences are required to **wear surgical mask** upon entry and throughout the performance.
- (d) All audiences should perform **hand hygiene** before entering the venue and after touching commonly shared items.

- (e) Audiences should maintain **social distancing** from others. Social interactions should be limited with the same group or household.
- (f) Encourage audiences to support the overall safety of the event. Activities which can create aerosol (such as shouting, chanting and singing along) should be discouraged.
- (g) Encourage audiences to take a shower or bath and wash hair when return home, and wash clothes properly.

### **C. Maintain Good Personal Hygiene**

- (a) Check body **temperature** regularly. Those with fever or respiratory symptoms or sudden loss of taste/smell should refrain from work / joining the rehearsal or performance, wear a surgical mask, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- (b) All should wear **surgical mask** as far as feasible. For safety reasons, mask-wearing is not recommended for
  - i. children below age of 2 without supervision
  - ii. people with difficulty in breathing
  - iii. people who need assistance to remove the mask
- (c) N95 respirators are generally not recommended for use by the general public in community settings as surgical mask can protect against COVID-19 which is mainly transmitted by droplet and contact route. Special training is required for proper wearing and removal of N95 respirator. Otherwise the infective risk due to inadequate protection and contamination may be increased.
- (d) **Maintain hand hygiene**
  - i. Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching mouth, nose or eyes; after using the toilet; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
  - ii. Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds, then dry with a disposable paper towel. When the hands are cleaned, do not touch the water tap directly again (for example, using a paper towel to wrap the faucet before turn it off). If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70-80% alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.

- (e) Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- (f) People should maintain **social distancing** with others when in common facilities (e.g. resting room, changing room, conference room, pantry etc.). In case wearing mask is not feasible (e.g. when having meal or shower), keep at least 1.5 metres with others.
- (g) Special attention when having meals
  - i. Stagger meal time
  - ii. Maintain social distancing of at least 1.5 metre with others when having meals or having meals at designated areas with partitions
  - iii. Perform hand hygiene before meal, removing or putting on mask.
  - iv. Avoid talking without mask while having meals as far as possible. Talk only after finishing meals and after putting on masks.
- (h) Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption.

#### **IV. Cleaning and Disinfection of Environment when a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 is Encountered**

##### **A. Cleaning staff would wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including:**

- (a) Surgical mask
- (b) Latex gloves
- (c) Disposable gown
- (d) Eye protection (goggles/face shield) and
- (e) Cap (optional)

##### **B. Staff training**

- (a) Ensure the frontline cleaning staff received training with environmental disinfection procedures and supervising staff should have read and familiar with the disinfection guidelines.

### **C. Enhanced Environmental Disinfection**

- (a) Disinfect all potentially contaminated surfaces or items by using 1 in 49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water).

### **D. If There is Blood, Secretions, Vomitus or Excreta Spillage, Take Enhanced Measures:**

- (a) Cleaning staff should wear appropriate PPE including surgical mask, gloves, disposable gown, eye protection (goggles/face shield) and cap (optional).
- (b) Use forceps to hold the strong absorbent disposable towels to wipe away the blood, secretions, vomitus or excreta during a preliminary clean up.
- (c) Then put the forceps and used absorbent disposable towels in a garbage bag carefully without contaminating oneself/the environment.
- (d) Disinfect with 1 in 4 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 4 parts of water), wipe from the outside inward, leave for 10 minutes, rinse with water and wipe dry afterwards.
- (e) After the procedure, put all the wastes and cleansing tools (e.g. forceps, cloth, mop head) in the garbage bag.
- (f) Carefully remove PPE, put them in the garbage bag, and then perform hand hygiene.

(When hands are not visibly soiled, use 70-80% alcohol-based handrub. Wash hands with soap and water when hands are visibly dirty or visible soiled with blood, body fluid.)

- (g) Wear a pair of new gloves, seal the waste bag tight and dispose it properly in covered rubbish bin. Then, label the rubbish bin and put it in a safe undisturbed place until collection.
- (h) Remove gloves carefully. Wash hands with liquid soap and water.

- V. Guidelines and Educational Material for Performing Arts**
- A. Proper Use of Bleach**  
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/100272.html>
- B. Proper Use of Mask**  
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/460/19731.html>
- C. Basic Infection Control for Property Management (Video)**  
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/101468.html>
- D. Health Advice on Prevention of COVID-19 for Properties Management (Interim)**  
[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice\\_for\\_properties\\_management\\_for\\_nid\\_of\\_public\\_health\\_significance\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice_for_properties_management_for_nid_of_public_health_significance_eng.pdf)
- E. Food Safety and Hygiene Advisory for Food Premises on the Prevention of COVID-19**  
[https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/files/Food\\_Safety\\_and\\_Hygiene\\_Advisory\\_for\\_Food\\_Premises\\_20200229v3.pdf](https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/whatsnew/files/Food_Safety_and_Hygiene_Advisory_for_Food_Premises_20200229v3.pdf)

5 November 2020

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