

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Considerations for Technical Rehearsals

General Practices

- Please adhere first and foremost to the CDC guidelines on COVID-19, social distancing, appropriate mask-wearing, and your state and local policies and procedures.
- A Health and Safety Coordinator should be present at all rehearsals to ensure that COVID-19 guidelines and check-in procedures are followed.
- Everyone should wear a mask at all times when they are in the venue, except when onstage activity requires its removal. [3, 9]
- The scheduling of technical rehearsals should be structured to include the fewest number of performers, designers, crew, technicians, and other observers in the space, especially in specific areas, at any given time, including use of staggered calls. [3]
- The duration of technical rehearsals may need to be shorter than the typical 10 out of 12 or 8 out of 10 call to limit the overall close-contact exposure times for cast, crew, and designers over a 24-hour period. The CDC defines “close contact” as being within six feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes each 24 hours, with individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures total 15 minutes). Other considerations regarding contact exposure times include proximity, duration, if the contact included generating respiratory aerosols (e.g., singing, shouting), and other environmental factors. [15]
- Work areas for technicians whose work confines them to a specific area (e.g., sound board operator, light board operator) should be a minimum of six feet from the boundary of any other workstation or occupied audience seat.³
- Workstations should not be shared. In the event a substitute operator is needed, all touchpoints should be disinfected using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [3]

Audio

- Performers should be instructed on the placement of their wireless microphones to minimize contact between performers and sound technicians. The ability of the performer to set their own mic should be considered when determining element type and location (e.g., a headset-style element vs a hairline mic placement). [3, 13]
- Microphones should not be shared among cast members. [3, 13]
- Communication headsets, belt packs, and com stations should not be shared. [3]
- In the event of an emergency quick repair on a performer, the deck audio technician should wear appropriate PPE before approaching the performer. [9]
- Audio crew should wear gloves while handling used vocal microphones to prevent contact with aerosolized particles and saliva. Audio crew should properly dispose of gloves and wash their hands once they are finished handling the microphone. [9, 14]
- If checking a microphone element placement near an actor’s face, the deck audio technician should wear a face shield in addition to a mask. [9]

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Considerations for Technical Rehearsals

Audio cont.

- Under no circumstances should microphone elements be blown out prior to being sterilized for risk of aerosolized virus particles. Use spare elements instead. [3, 12]
- Microphones and com headsets should be cleaned and sanitized per manufacturer recommendations, using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [12]
- Beltpacks and base stations should be cleaned and sanitized per the manufacturer's recommendations using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [12, 13]

Lighting

- Follow spot workstations should be a minimum of six feet from any other workstation. If a theater's light booth does not allow this spacing, alternate spot positions or technologies should be considered (e.g., catwalk spots, PRG's 'Ground Control' system, or Robe's 'RoboSpot' system). [3]
- Touchpoints on automated follow spot systems should be sanitized after each use using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [3]
- Follow spots should not be shared. If a substitute operator is needed, all touchpoints on the light should be disinfected using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [3, 4]
- Lighting consoles should be operated by a single person, who should wear a mask at all times, and be positioned at least six feet away from other workstations. [3]
- The console should be disinfected between operators per manufacturer specifications using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [3, 4]

Fly Rail

- In manual fly houses with shows requiring more than one fly person, care should be taken when creating tracks to minimize the amount of time operators are in close proximity within the often narrow confines of the rail. [3]
- All touchpoints should be sanitized after use using an appropriate disinfectant product found on EPA List N. [2, 3, 4]
- Operators should properly wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after operating the fly rail. [3]

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Considerations for Technical Rehearsals

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