

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Considerations for Wardrobe and Hair/Makeup

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. [2]
- Any meetings, rehearsals, and other events should be virtual rather than in-person whenever possible. [2]
- Any in-person meetings, rehearsals, or performances should require the physical presence of as few people as practical, including the use of staggered calls or hybrid meetings. [2]
- A Health and Safety Coordinator should be present at all rehearsals and performances to ensure that COVID-19 guidelines and check-in procedures are being followed.
- Performers should not remove their masks or face shields until just prior to entering the stage. [7, 8]

Costumes/Wardrobe

- Close contact between costumes/wardrobe employees and performers should be kept to an absolute minimum. [2, 6]
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn for the duration of person-to-person contact. [2, 6, 8]
- No known studies exist examining how long the COVID-19 virus can survive on fabric. Similar viruses do not survive long on clothing, as the fabric absorbs the moisture the virus lives on, drying out the virus more quickly than other materials, and it is theorized that the same is true of COVID-19. While the potential for contracting COVID-19 from dry fabrics may be low, any damp fabrics could be potentially contagious. As clothes are often not fully wet or dry, all costumes should be treated as potentially contagious. [5]
- Care should be taken in the scheduling of measurement, fittings, and dressing, such as staggered calls, to not overcrowd dressing rooms, hair/makeup areas, and other wardrobe areas, so as to maintain social distancing between performers and technicians. [6]
- Designers should be mindful throughout the design process, and seek to limit their designs to clothing the performer can put on and remove without assistance (e.g., avoiding corsets). Designers should further prioritize simple quick changes (e.g., changes involving the addition or removal of a jacket or other outer garments) and avoid quick changes requiring assistance. [9]
- Fitting photos should be taken by one person to minimize people touching the same phone, tablet, etc. [2, 6] Electronics should be sanitized after use. [2]
- Only the costume department should touch wardrobe items until those items are provided to the performer. [6]
- Performers should have a separate, private area to receive a costume or item, and maintain appropriate physical distancing from other performers and costume staff. [6]
- Costumes should be bagged separately for each performer after laundering, and prior to use, to avoid contamination. Bags should be sanitized using appropriate disinfectant products found on EPA List N approved for use against SARS-CoV-2 prior to use. [1, 3, 5]
- Crew must wash their hands before and after handling any costumes, accessories, and other items, or having physical contact with a performer. [2, 6]

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Costumes/Wardrobe cont.

- As much as possible, masks should be worn by all personnel off stage; however, some performers who can't wear masks off stage (due to make up, for example), should limit their movement and contact with others. A wardrobe crewmember should don appropriate PPE (e.g., masks, face shield, gloves) before approaching an unmasked performer. [2, 6, 8]
- Wardrobe crew members should avoid the use of "bite lights" during quick changes, and use either a headlamp, or create a well-lit changing area backstage. [2,6]
- Wardrobe crew members must avoid using their mouths for holding items, such as safety pins, and should avoid touching items that have been in contact with performers' bodily fluids, such as lozenges, chewing gum, or used tissues. [2,6]
- Individuals touching or handling dirty clothing should wear masks, gloves, and face shields to minimize the potential for damp particulates to transfer from the clothing. Gloves should be properly disposed of after touching dirty clothing to avoid cross contamination, machine touch points should be sanitized using appropriate disinfectant products found on EPA List N approved for use against SARs-CoV-2, and launderers should properly wash their hands. [1, 5]
- Crews should take care to not shake baskets of dirty laundry to avoid aerosolizing any virus/water molecules that may be in the material. [1,2,5]
- After clothes have been washed and folded, they should be placed in designated 'clean' laundry baskets to avoid cross contamination, as COVID-19 can survive on plastics for up to three days. [4, 6]
- Performers should place their own soiled costume pieces in designated 'dirty' laundry baskets (placing their own undergarments in wash bags) and hang garments requiring dry cleaning or those not needing cleaning on a metal hanger on a rack. [1, 2, 5]
- Each performer should have their own designated costume rack, if possible. [6]
- All costume items must be properly disinfected with EPA-approved chemical solutions or methods before they are provided to the performer and after use. [1, 2, 3, 6] Effective disinfection can be accomplished using appropriate disinfectant products found on EPA List N approved for use against SARs-CoV-2.
- Any costume items with special cleaning requirements should be cleaned using the customary process before it is given to the performer. Based on the scientific data to date, steam/hot washing items is sufficient to disinfect wardrobe and other costume items, while jewelry should be disinfected using materials that will not cause damage. [3, 6]
- When dealing with items likely to be degraded by steam/hot washing, the wardrobe crew could utilize quarantines of at least seven hours in "hot boxes" as an acceptable disinfectant level alternative. [5, 6]
- Costume props (e.g., purses or pouches) should be cleaned and sanitized using appropriate disinfectant products found on EPA List N approved for use against SARs-CoV-2 that will not cause damage to the item prior to being given to a performer. [6]
- Clothes requiring dry cleaning should be delivered without hangers, to prevent potential reuse of the same hanger as a cross-contamination point. [2]
- Items such as stunt body pads should be purchased by the production for each performer's individual use instead of being provided by the stunt coordinator or other stunt performers. [6]

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Hair and Makeup

- Whenever possible, performers should be responsible for applying their own wigs and makeup, and for providing their own makeup, hair products, and tools. [6]
- 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 versus a hairline mic placement). [9]
- Hair and makeup areas should be in a well-ventilated area. In cases of airbrush application, workspaces should have air scrubber filtration. [6]
- An adequate amount of time should be planned for disinfecting and resetting the area between performers in accordance with building specifications. [6]
- Hand sanitizer should be available at every hair and makeup station. [2, 6]
- Sufficient trash receptacles should be available and emptied regularly; touchless trash bins are preferable. A receptacle marked "soiled" should be placed at every main station for used towels and other washable items. [6]
- Full PPE must be worn by hair and makeup artists at all times while in proximity to performers (e.g., masks and face shields, gloves as appropriate). Hair and makeup should be planned to minimize the amount of time a performer is required to remove PPE. For example, a performer may be able to wear a mask while having their eyes or hair done, and only need to remove their mask when the relevant areas are worked on. [6]
- A performer may consider employing a face shield, as opposed to a mask, so that completed make-up is not disturbed. Handheld face shields must be provided to performers for use during the time they are unable to use other types of PPE. [2, 6, 8]
- Each performer should have their own assigned professional tools (e.g., brushes, applicators) that are not used for anyone else. Disposable tools should be utilized whenever possible. Each performer should use a disposable palette to mix foundation, powders, lipstick, or other compounds. Non-disposable hair brushes, combs, and make-up brushes should be cleaned with appropriate disinfectant products found on EPA List N approved for use against SARs-CoV-2 after every use. All make-up supplies should be kept in individual cast bags. [6]
- Crew members should wash their hands before and after physical contact with a performer. [2, 6]

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Considerations for Technical Rehearsals

References

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