

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Special Considerations for Singers

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. [5]
- Any meetings, rehearsals, and other events should be virtual rather than in-person whenever possible. [5]
- 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. [5]
- A Health and Safety Coordinator should be present at all rehearsals and performances to ensure that COVID-19 guidelines and check-in procedures are followed.

Considerations for Singers

- Because of the increased respiration involved in singing, additional safeguards and limitations on activities should be taken. The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) have created the Return to Stage and Performing Arts Playbook to guide decisions by singers returning to the studio.
- The AGMA Playbook presents guidelines for incremental, progressive reopening, with five levels of activity. Level 1 allows limited activity with very few people present; Level 5 is described as our “new normal” and removes most restrictions. To follow this plan, the Playbook advises that companies should “comply with all federal, state, and local requirements... The expectation is for the company to spend a minimum of two weeks at each level.” In addition, progressing to the next level requires monitoring the level of the disease in the community in which the company is located, and taking those statistics into account. The Playbook provides specific target levels for progression to each level. [1]

Ventilation

- Areas should be well ventilated with air-changes per hour, fresh-air intake and filtration employed. The ability to open windows, or adding local air filtration units, can help to maximize ventilation. Outdoor areas have lesser risk. [1]

Studio Occupancy

- The Playbook recommends studio occupancy limitations according to the company’s current level in the reopening progression. For example, the occupancy guideline for Level 1 is for limiting studio use to solo rehearsal or up to four people who cohabitate. For Level 2, the guideline is 50% of maximum occupancy based on the distancing guidelines for singers. [1]

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Distancing

- Because of the projection of droplets and aerosols, singers need the equivalent of 200 square feet around them indoors, 120 square feet outdoors, and always at least 15 feet in front of them. [1]

Masks

- Singers should wear masks at all times. [1, 5]
- Special singers' masks have been developed. [7] However, while it's likely these masks will decrease droplet transmission, there are currently no studies showing how effective they are. [1]
- The Playbook notes that masks might be impractical while singing. If singers do not wear masks, physical distancing is essential, and additional space should be considered. [1]

Room Turnover

- There should be a minimum of 30 minutes between classes or rehearsals in a studio to allow aerosolized particles to dissipate. [1]
- Additional time might be necessary, depending on the ventilation in the room. [1]

Microphones

- Microphones should not be shared. If they must be shared, they should be sanitized between uses according to the manufacturer's recommendations. [1] See "Considerations for Technical Rehearsals" Audio section for guidelines on cleaning microphones.

Rehearsal Attire and Personal Belongings

- The Playbook recommends keeping dressing rooms and locker rooms closed until the later levels of the reopening progression. [1]
- Singers should arrive at the studio wearing rehearsal attire under their street clothes. [1]
- Studios should include designated spaces for personal belongings and shoes. [1]

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Music Accompaniment - Recorded Playback

- If sound playback is required, a single operator should be assigned to use the equipment and to sanitize it before and after use. [3]
- The sound operator should be provided hand sanitizer and should use it before and after handling each auditioner's cell phone. [5]

Music Accompaniment - Live Musician

- If a live musician, such as a pianist, is required, they should wear a mask and be spaced at least six feet away from the singers. [4, 5]
- Singers should maintain at least six feet of distance and wear masks while conferring with the musician. [4, 5]
- The musician should be provided hand sanitizer to use as needed. [4, 5]
- The piano/keyboard and music stands should be sanitized prior to use with EPA-approved solutions, and between each player. [4, 6, 8, 9]

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References

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