

**RISK ASSESSMENT #4
Group rehearsing indoors**

**COVID-19 Secure Brass Band Rehearsals**

*The Brass Band League would like to thank Brass Bands England for allowing us to reuse their COVID-19 information and resources.*

This risk assessment template is designed to cover many different scenarios and risk mitigations in running a brass band rehearsal in a way that ensures that the activity meets the standards of being COVID-19 secure as set out in guidance from the Government and, in particular, the Arts Council NI. Not every point will be applicable in every situation.

**Please ensure that you refer to the correct example risk assessment for your specific rehearsal activity.**

This is designed to act as a starting point to support you in creating your own risk assessment that deals with the specifics of your activity. Please also note that this deals specifically with the risks associated with COVID-19 and not items that should be covered under usual risk assessments, such as slips trips and falls. This risk assessment is not exhaustive and should be added to in order to create an assessment specific to your activity.

| **Band name** | **Person undertaking assessment** | **Date of assessment** | **Date of next review** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| <insert name>  | <insert name> | <insert date> | 12 August 2021 (or sooner if Government advice changes) |

**Scope of Activity, Location and Time**

| **The key principles underpinning this risk assessment are:** | **Date/time of rehearsal** | **Location**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| To take all reasonable measures based on the latest advice and guidance to limit the risk of infection and transmission of Coronavirus for all members of the band in rehearsals.To fulfil the expectations around the resumption of playing activities, delivering face-to-face rehearsals ensuring that the rehearsal takes place under COVID-19 secure regulations.If a band member has had a positive COVID-19 test within the last 2 weeks, or if the band member has experienced any of the following symptoms within the last week:* A temperature above 37.8˚C
* A dry persistent cough that has developed during the week
* A loss of taste or smell (anosmia)

Or if any member of your household has presented any of the above symptoms within the last 2 weeks:They **must not** attend band and should seek medical advice.  | <insert date/time> | <insert name/address of rehearsal venue>  |
| **How many in attendance?** | **Who is completing this risk assessment?**  |
| <insert numbers> | [x] **No formal organisation**[x] **Organisation**  <insert name of band>[x] **Venue that a band is hiring for use** <insert name of business/venue> |

**Associated Guidance**

Further Guidance is available from the COVID Information page on the BBL Website:

**www.brassbandleague.org/covid-19-information/**

| **What are the hazards?** | **Who is at risk and how would they be harmed?** (e.g. members, public, contractors - transmission of virus etc.) | **What is currently done to reduce/control the risk?** | **Risk level** (High, Medium, Low) | **What more can be done to reduce any risk?** | **Action by whom and by when?** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF THE REHEARSAL SPACE** |
| **Attendees bring COVID-19 into the venue** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Attendees asked to not attend if they have any likelihood of having the disease.If a band member has had a positive COVID-19 test within the last 2 weeks, or if the band member has experienced any of the following symptoms within the last week:* A temperature above 37.8˚C
* A dry persistent cough that has developed during the week
* A loss of taste or smell (anosmia)

Or if any member of your household has presented any of the above symptoms within the last 2 weeks:They **must not** attend band and should seek medical advice.If a member of the band becomes unwell during rehearsal, they should leave the rehearsal area immediately and wait outdoors for transport or make their own way home and seek a test for COVID-19. If a member of the band displays an elevated temperature or other COVID-19 symptoms following a rehearsal, they should contact the Chair and seek medical advice as described above. Details of those in attendance of rehearsal should be communicated when required to track and trace and their advice on isolation requirements followed.  | H |  |  |
| **Attendees bring COVID-19 into the venue** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Attendees asked to confirm on arrival whether or not they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms in the past seven days. | H |  |  |
| **Risks to more vulnerable members**  | Those with weakened immune systems or health risks or caring for those with increased risk – transmission of virus  | Make members aware that attendance is not compulsory to prevent inadvertently pressuring members who, for their own reasons, would be best not attending.  | M/H |  |  |
| **Close proximity** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Rehearsal space is checked to ensure that at least 1m social distancing can be maintained.  | M | Carry out an inspection of spaces to be used in advance to confirm these are possible.Measure rehearsal spaces to establish maximum capacity which can accommodate at least 1m social distancing |  |
| **Playing facing each towards other members increases transmission risk** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Use side-to-side positioning (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 as aerosols in enclosed spaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Where possible, rehearsals will be held in outdoor spaces.  | M |  |  |
| **Close proximity for longer than necessary**  | Individual operating sign-in – transmission of virus | An expected attendance list is created in advance of rehearsal. | L |  |  |
| **Close proximity for longer than necessary**  | Individual operating sign-in – transmission of virus  | Group membership and contact details collected in advance for contact tracing so not collected in person to limit contact from interactions. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 via contact with surfaces** | Persons tidying up – transmission of virus | In addition to their instrument, all band members bring their own stand, a cloth (or similar) into which they can absorb the water (condensate) from their own instrument and a suitable waterproof bag into which the cloth may be kept. | L | Checklist sent to all members in advance:* Instrument (we recommend regular cleaning, once every 2 weeks minimum)
* Stand
* Cloth (and waterproof bag)
* Hand sanitiser
* Face covering
* Bell coverings (if inside)
* Music
 |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 as aerosols in enclosed spaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Ask all attendees to wear face coverings (unless medically exempt) whenever possible. | M |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 via contact with surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | All chairs to be set out in advance of members arriving, ensuring at least 1m social distancing, avoiding players facing each other.  | L |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 via contact with surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Chairs to be wiped with anti-bacterial wipes prior to members arriving and at the end of rehearsal when packing away by designated members. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 via contact with surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Use easily cleanable chairs (i.e. not fabric) to reduce risk. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 via contact with surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | No sheet music to be handed out to players in rehearsal; digital copies should be sent in advance and can be printed at home (in accordance with copyright legislation) or viewed on a tablet/electronic device. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 as aerosols in enclosed spaces which increases with time in enclosed spaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Taking steps to improve ventilation and, whenever possible, through the use of mechanical systems and opening windows and doors. | M |  |  |
| **Transmission of COVID-19 as aerosols in enclosed spaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Preparations should be made so that performers attend rehearsals only when required for their part. | L |  |  |
| **ARRIVAL OF MEMBERS AT VENUE** |
| **Transmission between members through close proximity and congregating before arrival** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Members should arrive separately and, after signing in, move directly to their designated seats to maintain spacing throughout the time in the venue, avoiding congregating at the entrance.**SIGNING IN REGISTER TO BE RETAINED FOR 28 DAYS** | L/M |  |  |
| **Transmission between members through close proximity and congregating before arrival** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Cars to parked in such way to maintain social distancing when arriving and leaving, and to minimise inconvenience to neighbouring properties. | L/M |  |  |
| **Transmission on surfaces between members**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Before arriving at the venue, members should sanitise their hands before entering. Further supplies of hand sanitiser should be made available at the venue. Members reminded to carry hand sanitiser in their instrument cases. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission in aerosols between members**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Face coverings must be worn upon arrival at the venue and should only be removed when playing. | L |  |  |
| **Members forget about safety measures over time, allowing transmission**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | A short safety briefing, reminding players of protocols and procedures, will be undertaken regularly. | L |  |  |
| **Members forget about safety measures over time, allowing transmission** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Reminders also to be given around hand washing and good respiratory hygiene (‘catch it, bin it, kill it!’). | L |  |  |
| **Transmission from surfaces/other band members** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Limit the duration of social interaction before, during and after rehearsals. | M  | Extra wipes / hand sanitiser available |  |
| **Transmission via droplets due to insufficient spacing** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Floor markings of at least 1m social distancing should be used throughout the venue in all spaces in which members might congregate, such as entrances waiting to sign in and the location of chairs. | L |  |  |
| **USING TOILETS AT THE VENUE** |
| **Transmission via surfaces and aerosols through using and flushing toilets** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Band members should ensure at least 1m social distancing is maintained and that face coverings are worn when moving to use toilet facilities. | M |  |  |
| **Transmission via surfaces and aerosols through using and flushing toilets** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Limit access to maintain at least 1m distancing and/or flow. | M |  |  |
| **Transmission via surfaces and aerosols through using and flushing toilets** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Toilets should be operated on a one in, one out policy to avoid risks from transmission in small enclosed spaces. | M |  |  |
| **Touching surfaces after using the toilet leading to transmission**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Band members should ensure thorough hand washing/use of hand sanitiser when touching surfaces (e.g. toilets, sinks, door handles…). | M |  |  |
| **Touching surfaces after using the toilet leading to transmission** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Soap and disposable towels should be made available. | L |  |  |
| **Touching surfaces after using the toilet leading to transmission** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Hand sanitiser should be made available. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission via surfaces and aerosols through using and flushing toilets** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Clean toilets during event / frequent wipe down of surface. | M |  |  |
| **DURING REHEARSAL** |
| **Transmission through aerosols and touching shared surfaces increases with length of time spent together** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Limit the duration of social interaction before, during and after rehearsals. | M |  |  |
| **Aerosol transmission increasing with time through accumulation**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Keeping the activity time involved as short as possible.Rehearsal timings with ‘ventilation’ breaks at least once an hour. | L/M |  |  |
| **Transmission on surfaces between members**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Avoiding sharing equipment whenever possible and place name labels on equipment to help identify the designated user, for example, percussionists maintaining their own sticks and mallets.  | L |  |  |
| **Transmission through aerosols while playing**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Seating will be laid out so that all players will maintain a lateral distance of at least 1m. Those with forward-facing instruments (cornets, flugel, trombones) should, where possible, angle away from other players, but they should be at least 1m from the player into whose back they are pointed. | M | Layout controlled by designated person(s) setting out chairs before players arrive. |  |
| **Transmission through aerosols while playing**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Use side-to-side positioning (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission through aerosols while playing**  | All in attendance with particular risk to conductor – transmission of virus | Conductor should wear a face covering (material mask or transparent face guard) while directing the band and maintain at least 1m distance from players.  | L/M |  |  |
| **Transmission through aerosols while playing**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Bell coverings should be used in rehearsal to reduce aerosol transmission risk (indoors only). | L |  |  |
| **Transmission through aerosols while playing**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Face masks should be used while not playing. i.e. in bars rests | L |  |  |
| **Transmission through aerosols and droplets while playing**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Any discharge of condensate (water) from the instrument **must** be made **entirely** into the cloth that the individual player has brought, then stored in the bag which they use to carry the cloth. | L/M |  |  |
| **Transmission between members on surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Don't provide refreshments. Ask participants to bring their own if necessary. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission between members on surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Avoid sharing plates and utensils with people outside of your household. | L |  |  |
| **PACKING AWAY AFTER REHEARSAL** |
| **Transmission if members are in close proximity** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Members should pack their own bags and cases as promptly as possible, respecting social distancing policies. | L | Reminders given to players to pack away quickly; socialising can take place after everyone has left the venue. |  |
| **Contamination of equipment following rehearsal** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Designated person(s) should pack away and return chairs once the area is clear of members. | L/M | Members advised to bring their own stands to avoid passing around equipment. |  |
| **Transmission between members and other room users on surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | If rehearsing indoors, the floor and other surfaces must be cleaned. | L |  |  |
| **Transmission between members and other room users on surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Upon leaving, the final member of the band to leave the room will spray and disinfect door handles and high contact points. | L/M |  |  |
| **AFTER REHEARSAL** |
| **Transmission through aerosols and touching shared surfaces increases with length of time spent together**  | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Limit the duration of social interaction before, during and after rehearsals. | M |  |  |
| **Transmission if members are in close proximity** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | All members will leave the rehearsal venue separately, all wearing face coverings, observing social distancing and disperse promptly from the venue. | M |  |  |
| **Transmission between members on surfaces** | All in attendance – transmission of virus | Water cloths MUST be taken home and disposed or laundered appropriately. | M |  |  |
| **Subsequent transmission by members if caught at the venue** | General Public – transmission of virus | If someone at the event develops symptoms after the event - all people who provided contact details contacted and informed within 24 hours. | H |  |  |