

Covid -19 Safety in rehearsals and shows

This document was created on March 17th 2021 and updated on 30th December 2021; it is likely to be amended on a regular basis. It will remain in place until both the pandemic ends and we feel that all significant risk is past. We are likely to voluntarily keep more safety procedures in place for longer than is the legal minimum.

Venue hygiene

We will be checking all kitchen and toilet facilities at rehearsal and show venues, prior to cast arrival, for cleanliness, and if in doubt, the facilities will be cleaned ahead of everyone else's arrival by a designated team member or company director, wearing appropriate PPE. This is because our rehearsal and performance spaces are shared workspaces, also used by other people and organisations.

All students are urged to bring their own snacks and drinks from home.

Sanitizer

We reserve the right to request that hand sanitizer is used by all students on arrival to the rehearsal or performance space. We will supply sanitizer from the company funds though people are welcome to bring their own.

If ill

If a student is ill with anything which may be infectious, they are asked not to come into rehearsals where they will be in contact with other people.

Rehearsals & performances

Shows will not involve kissing or similar contact. Affection between characters can just as well be shown by other expression like the holding of hands.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are to be worn by adults and pupils (11-15 years group) when moving around the premises. They must also be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This will not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in dance or physical movement. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises.

In the 7-10 years group, face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in the 7-10 year old group will not need to wear face coverings.



Face coverings should also be worn by visitors in situations where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

Transparent face coverings, which may assist communication with someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate, can also be worn.

Face visors or shields can be worn by those exempt from wearing a face covering but they are not an equivalent alternative in terms of source control of virus transmission. They may protect the wearer against droplet spread in specific circumstances but are unlikely to be effective in preventing the escape of smaller respiratory particles when used without an additional face covering. They should only be used after carrying out a risk assessment for the specific situation and should always be cleaned appropriately.

The use of face coverings may have a particular impact on those who rely on visual signals for communication. Those who rely on visual signals for communication, or communicate with or provide support to such individuals, are currently exempt from any requirement to wear face coverings in education settings or in public places

These precautions will remain until no earlier than 30th January 2022, in line with the government road map out of COVID.

Safe wearing and removal of face coverings

Clear instructions will be provided to staff, students and visitors on how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings in all of the circumstances above, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires the:

- ❖ cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or Face coverings put them on
- ❖ safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use
- ❖ Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn, and the face covering should be replaced carefully. Staff and students may consider bringing a spare face covering to wear in the event that their face covering becomes damp during the session.

Pupils will be instructed to:

- ❖ Not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it.
- ❖ Dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin).
- ❖ Place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them.
- ❖ Wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.



Access to face coverings

Staff and students will supply their own face coverings but a small contingency supply will be made available by Knaves for people who:

- ❖ are struggling to access a face covering
- ❖ are unable to use their face covering as it has become damp, soiled or unsafe
- ❖ have forgotten their face covering
- ❖ No student will be denied education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering.

Exemptions

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings.

This applies to individuals who:

- ❖ Cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties
- ❖ Speak to or provide help to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

Visitors

We will not be permitting drop-in visitors. Visitors who will be permitted must be visiting in sole pursuance of their job, eg chaperones, carers, medical staff etc, and they must be expected ahead of time. All visitors will be required to comply with our usual safety rules.

Ventilation

Where possible, doors or windows will be kept open to ensure good ventilation, or failing that, air conditioning used.

Shared workspaces

As we work in spaces also used by other groups of people, we will take especial care to clean and disinfect the space after our use. This will require designated people to disinfect all surfaces touched or handled by other groups as well. We expect this of other groups using the space before us, and will follow the same procedure afterwards.



Handwashing

All spaces in which we work will have handwashing facilities, as well as the provision of hand sanitizer.

Costumes

Wherever possible and if circumstances allow, shared costumes will be washed in a machine and dried between wearers.

Stage food or drink

On-stage food or drink will be separate for each character, already plated as a prop by a crew member with clean hands and wearing a mask, and covered in clingfilm until the last minute. Any on-stage utensils will be kept specifically marked per actor, so that no accidental sharing occurs.

Cleaning materials.

A box containing sanitizer, cleaning materials and relevant disposable PPE will be available at every rehearsal.

This will include

- – Disposable masks (to be thrown away after use)
- – Dettol spray
- – hand sanitizer in dispenser
- – rubber gloves (to be thrown away after use)
- – washing up liquid
- – washing up sponges (to be thrown away after use)
- – liquid soap in dispenser
- – disinfectant wipes (to be thrown away after use)
- – bin liners
- – bleach

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30 – 12 - 2021

