

**BBE step 4 webinar**

# Risks

- A double-vaccinated 80 year-old is still more likely to die from Covid than an unvaccinated 20 year-old
- Although the risk is reduced, someone who is double vaccinated but also immune compromised still has a high risk of contracting covid and acquiring serious symptoms.

# Ongoing responsibility

- Pre-existing health and safety law now comes back into force for our activity
  - Under this law it is important to understand that a volunteer has the same rights and responsibilities as an employee
- The main way to cover yourself is via a comprehensive risk assessment (RA)
  - This was a requirement pre-COVID. However, you also now need to consider the risks around COVID in your RA
- The Government has issued guidance (Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance from Step 4 - events and attractions) to help understand what these additional risks are, but you are required to put appropriate mitigations in place to reduce these risks.

# Six Key steps

- Risk asses
- Turn away those with symptoms
- Provide adequate ventilation
- Clean more often
- Enable people to check-in at your venue
- Communicate and train

# Introduction

- Guidance is non-statutory, but be aware of the potential implications of not following it
- Local authorities have the power to impose restrictions where there is a serious risk to public health
- Guidance covers all brass bands performances, but also rehearsals where either an employee or volunteer is present (which will be almost always).
- Although legal restrictions have been lifted, safety measures are still required as a condition of entry or participation to comply with your risk assessments

# Risk Assessments

- ‘By law you must protect workers and others (including contractors, volunteers and customers/users) from risks to their health and safety. This includes risks from COVID-19. COVID-19 is a workplace hazard.’
- Completing a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks of COVID-19 in the workplace
- Identifying control measures to manage that risk
- **Failure to carry out an appropriate risk assessment, and put in place control measures to manage the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace, may be considered a breach of health and safety law**
- With more than five workers (or volunteers) this must be written down
- You must consult your workers (volunteers)

# Risk Assessments – what to consider

- The different ways the virus can spread
  - Aerosols
  - Droplets
  - Surfaces

You will need measures to reduce the risk of each type of transmission
- You might need different measures for different groups at different times in different areas
- Higher risk elements – breathing heavily, singing, raising voices
- Nominated single point of contact for Covid to liaise with public health teams

# Risk Assessments – what to consider

- Ensuring that anyone who feels unwell stays at home
- By law you must not require a self-isolating worker (volunteer) to work anywhere other than where they are self-isolating
- Impact on protected characteristics e.g. disabled and immune compromised – you must make reasonable adjustments to allow people with protected characteristics to participate
  - See guidance on those defined as extremely vulnerable and seven inclusive principals for arts and cultural organisations
- Managing risks in unusual workplaces i.e. store rooms, backstage etc.



# Risk Assessments – Aerosols

- The main way of spreading COVID-19 is through close contact with an infected person. When someone with COVID-19 breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release particles (droplets and aerosols) containing the virus that causes COVID-19. These particles can be breathed in by another person. Aerosols are produced at approximately the same rate as someone breathing without a mask while playing.
- Increase ventilation
  - Mechanical
  - Doors, windows, passive vents
  - Use a CO<sub>2</sub> monitor to identify poorly ventilated spaces e.g. the library
  - If ventilation cannot be increased, consider restricting numbers
  - Use outdoor spaces wherever possible

# Risk Assessments – Droplets

- While playing, relatively few droplets are produced by brass instruments but emptying water etc. can produce large amounts
- Put in measures to reduce contact between people
  - Reduce activity time
  - Use screens or barriers to separate people
  - Avoid face-to-face interactions
  - Require the use of face coverings in enclosed or crowded spaces
  - Increase the space between participants

# Risk Assessments – Surfaces

- Advise use hand sanitizer frequently, particularly when using shared objects like stands, music or drumsticks.
- Maintain regular cleaning of surfaces
- Provide extra handwashing and hand sanitizer areas

# Risk Assessments – Events

You must take steps to minimise the risk where you identify higher risks of transmission

- Specific risks identified in the events research programme
  - Prevalence of the virus
  - Venue environment
  - Attendee behaviours
  - Travel
- Combinations significantly increase risk
- Indoor events present significantly higher risk
  - Increase ventilation
- Outdoor events
  - Consider the indoor spaces i.e. toilets, bars, programme sales, boxes
  - Minimise congregating with queue systems, signage, staggered entry
- Congested areas
- Minimise movement between people e.g. passing audiences
- Crowd density – spacing between people and use stewards or consider zoning
- Energetic activity

# Risk Assessments – Other Considerations

- Security – new risks e.g. have you shut the windows?
- Closure – if you have to close are there instrument/asset risks or organisational risks, being unable to fulfill contractual obligations
- Other partners – safety groups, transport operators and local authorities
- Remember you still need the rest of the risk assessment to cover other hazards such as trips, slips and falls

# Managing your workforce

- Testing – require your members to pass a negative lateral flow test to attend – these can be ordered for free online or collected from a chemist
- Encourage your members to get the vaccine
- Have a plan if there is an outbreak in your band
  - Who is a close contact and needs to isolate (increasing spacing will reduce this number)? H&S legislation now puts this requirement on your organisation. You must tell close contacts to self isolate, not test and trace
  - When to suspend activity
  - Single point of contact to report to local authority health team
  - Thoroughly clean your facilities
  - Follow instructions from your public health team if they declare an outbreak
- Consider if any workers need PPE e.g. mask or visor for conductor

# Ensure that customers know how to visit

- Communicate changes i.e. online ticket sales (recommended as you also collect contact details)
- Use the NHS COVID pass as a condition of entry
- Remind of measures that are in place
- Follow good hygiene with increased hand washing
- Do not allow entry to anyone with symptoms or suspected cases
- Consider displaying an NHS QR code
- Have a communication plan for messages, especially on the day of events
- Consider an attendee code of conduct in pre-event communication

# Face Coverings and Bell Covers

- Face coverings are no longer required by law, but the Government expects and recommends that people should continue to wear them in crowded and enclosed settings, to protect themselves and others.
- You can choose to require them in your activities as a condition of entry or participation. BBE recommends that face coverings continue to be used where possible.
- Bell covers have previously been recommended as a barrier. BBE no longer explicitly recommends these, although if you have specific need you may still require them i.e. you are significantly reducing spacing but need to include other measures instead. BBE does not recommend reducing spacing wherever possible.