

COVID-19 risk assessments, advice and templates

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has updated the guidance for performing arts, which has particular effect for brass bands from 14 August 2020.

This guidance is essential reading for all bands when considering future activities and is found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts#arts-4-7>.

In response to the scientific studies commissioned by the DCMS, and with additional reference to the research presented recently by Brass Bands England (BBE), it has now announced notable changes in the rules, with considerable implications for brass bands.

It states that non-professionals can now engage in brass and wind playing, as well as singing, but in line with the wider guidance. This change will allow larger groups, such as a brass bands to again rehearse outdoors or indoors with sufficient social distancing measures.

All activity will require a risk assessment to be in place for the activity, and groups of over six or two households must recognise that accountability for all actions lies with the organisation or venue concerned.

It is important to remember that this guidance is there to support the resumption of activities, but all activity will need to be considered on its own merits taking into account specific situations and bands' own members' health and safety. Organisers should familiarise themselves with the DCMS guidance and ensure that a proper risk assessment is available for all activity.

This advice provides templates that bands may wish to use in order to inform decisions about future activities.

This advice only applies to England. It should be noted by BBE members in Scotland and Wales that regulations there differ from those in place in England. This advice will be updated as guidance changes in time.

Over-riding principles:

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or living with anyone with symptoms should follow the guidance on self-isolation and not engage in any activities during that time. This is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- All activities should follow the most recent advice on meeting outside your household. This is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july> (last updated 2 Sep)
- **Risk assessments are essential** in identifying possible risks of 1) exposure to possible COVID carriers, 2) surface droplet transmission and 3) cumulative aerosol transmission in the air. Implementation of appropriate mitigating actions will lessen and should minimise, but not remove, the risk of catching COVID.

Rehearsal decision tree

BBE has produced a decision tree to help bands understand how their organisation can fit in within the new guidelines please follow this and then use the appropriate risk assessment to inform the measures that will need to be in place when managing your rehearsal. You can download a copy [here](#).

1 Small group (up to six players) rehearsing outdoors

- Up to six players from different households may meet outdoors following social distancing guidelines for meeting people outside your household.
- Most risks are to participants, but also to the host of any rehearsal.
- See **Risk Assessment Template #1**. This should be considered as a starting point.



2 Small group (up to two households rehearsing indoors or outdoors

- Up to two households may meet indoors (or outdoors) following social distancing guidelines for meeting people outside your household.
- Most risks are to participants, but also to the host of any rehearsal.
- See **Risk Assessment Template #2**. This should be considered as a starting point.



3 Large group (more than six players) rehearsing outdoors

- More than six players from different households may meet outdoors following social distancing guidelines only if the rehearsal event is hosted by an organisation or venue. There is no set limit on numbers attending.
- Individuals attending these events must remain socially distanced and follow the guidelines on meeting people from outside your household.
- Most risks are to participants, but also to the wider community should transmission occur within a larger group.
- See **Risk Assessment Template #3**. This should be considered as a starting point.



4 Large group (more than six players) rehearsing indoors

- More than six players from different households may meet indoors following social distancing guidelines only if the rehearsal event is hosted by an organisation or venue. There is no set limit on numbers attending.
- Individuals attending these events must remain socially distanced and follow the guidelines on meeting people from outside your household.
- Most risks are to participants, but also to the wider community should transmission occur within a larger group.
- See **Risk Assessment Template #4**. This should be considered as a starting point.

