



## **AFM Local #166: COVID-19 Guidelines for Musicians and Small Music Venues**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to help in ensuring the safety of performing musicians and small music venues within the local community. Information has been taken from the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC), Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA), and current ongoing scientific studies using guidelines and information from the CDC, World Health Organization (WHO), state government officials, and medical professionals. The content of this document is subject to change based on the most updated research and recommendations. Changes to this document will only be made in consultation with the local union.

**What is COVID-19?** Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

**How does COVID-19 spread?** The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in **close contact** with one another (within about 6 feet). COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community ("community spread") in many affected geographic areas. Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

**How can I protect myself and others from contracting and/or spreading COVID-19?** Wear an appropriate face mask. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you've been in a public place, or after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose. If soap and water is not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

**Avoid close contact:** Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a prolonged period (15 minutes or more) starting from 2 days before illness onset. The 15 minutes does not need to be continuous (e.g., 3 to 5 minute periods would count) and wearing a cloth face covering does not completely remove the exposure risk when in close contact. If you are deemed a close contact, you must immediately begin quarantining. You must complete the full 14-day quarantine, even if you have a negative COVID-19 test during this time. If you become symptomatic, seek medical attention and isolate. You must isolate at home until you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications), symptoms have improved and it has been at least 10 days since symptom onset.

**Watch for symptoms of COVID-19, and quarantine if experiencing the following:** Common symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, temperature higher than 100.4.

**Why is it important to follow workplace guidelines related to COVID-19?**

- Following recommended guidelines can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep performing musicians and venue employees healthy and safe.
- Following recommended guidelines can increase the confidence and comfort of both the performing musician/s and the music venue owners/managers.
- Following recommended guidelines can establish a positive standard of practice for our local community and other local businesses.

**You are responsible:**

As always, you make your own decision to take a performance job or not depending on circumstances besides the Covid-19 pandemic. Regardless of these guidelines and recommendations, you choose to take this work at your own risk and AFM assumes no liability.



## RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES\* FOR MUSICIANS IN SMALL MUSIC VENUES

- Communicate through email or phone with the contractor (agent or venue) to ensure that they are aware of recommended guidelines.
- If you are sick, do not go into work. Follow the CDC guidelines to self-quarantine and seek medical attention. Daily symptom monitoring and self-temperature checks are recommended.
- Do not share equipment with other musicians.
- Musicians should all wear masks. Singers, wind and brass players may unmask to perform; mask up when not performing.
- If possible, bring your own microphone/ cable.
- Keep social distance (at least 6ft/2m) onstage and in the audience.
- No close seating throughout the venue and at the bar.
- Avoid audience dancing, use dance floor space to distance the stage from audience.
- One act must leave the stage before the next comes on.
- Stage, mics and cables must be sanitized between acts.\*\*
- Use a virtual tip jar or similar app instead of physical cash tips.\*\*
- Consider using drum shield-style plexiglass in front of stage (singers) and between and/or in front of winds and brass.
- Before and after shows, if you normally interface with fans, refrain from touching them.
- Do not allow fans to touch merchandise, if possible. Clean/disinfect merchandise before and after each show.\*\*
- Wear gloves/use hand sanitizer when handling cash and credit cards. Use contactless payment methods when possible.\*\*
- Do not wear stage clothing from night to night without first washing them, preferably in hot water. If they cannot be washed, spray the clothing with a disinfectant spray.
- Contracts with food compensation should specify no communal dishes, only individually wrapped entrees to limit contact and exposure.

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**\*\*CDC Update April 5, 2021:** *Research indicates a less than 1 in 10,000 chance of SARS-CoV-2 infection via fomite (surface and object) transmission.*



## RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES\* FOR SMALL MUSIC VENUES

- Conduct daily health checks of employees including temperature checks.
- If employees experience COVID-19 symptoms, they should not return to work, and should follow the CDC guidelines to self-quarantine and seek medical attention.
- Conduct regular hazard assessments and implement policies and practices for social distancing in the workplace including: Spacing of tables and public seating (at least 6ft/2m distance); Provide adequate stage size for the number of musicians performing (at least 6ft/2m minimum); Improving indoor ventilation systems (Consult CDC guidelines for recommendations at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)); Encourage/require employees to wear appropriate face coverings in the workplace.
- If possible and appropriate for season, consider outdoor music stages as a safer alternative to indoor venues.
- If possible, limit indoor performance sets to less than 60 minutes with at least a 15-30 minute break between sets to allow for one complete fresh air turnover in the space.
- Work with sound engineers to insure safe practices of microphone/equipment usage from player-to-player, and group-to-group if there is more than one group performing.
- Consider using drum shield-style plexiglass in front of stage (singers) and between and/or in front of winds and brass.
- Communicate through email or phone with the musicians or booking agency to ensure that they are aware of musician-recommended guidelines.
- Contracts with food compensation should specify no communal dishes, only individually wrapped entrees to limit contact and exposure.
- Clean and sanitize high-touch areas: door handles, push plates, light switches, handrails, elevator buttons, tables, chairs, trash receptacles, sinks, soap/towel dispensers, toilet/stall handles, countertops, any other high-touch areas.\*\*

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