

## COVID-19 Risk Assessment Addendum – Singing (Group and One to One)

It is assumed that this Risk Assessment is an addendum to the COVID-19 Risk Assessment and mitigation already in place.

**Objective: To minimise the risk of transmission whilst undertaking activities that result in the cumulation of aerosol transmission (i.e. Vocal Projection, Singing and Breathing exercises)**

This is an initial Risk Assessment based on the initial phase of the [recommended guidance](#). Further guidance will be issued when there is sufficient scientific evidence to support a move.

Vocal Projection, Singing and Breathing exercises, especially in groups, were considered to be higher risk activities because of the potential for aerosol production and the absence presently of developed scientific analysis to assess this specific risk. The DCMS commissioned further scientific studies to be carried out to develop the scientific evidence on these activities, which has allowed them to reconsider appropriate mitigations. **Both professionals and non-professionals can now engage in singing**, wind and brass in line with this guidance.

However, these studies have also indicated that it is the cumulative aerosol transmission from both those performing in and attending events is likely to create risk and as such our capacity calculations take this into account. The DCMS are continuing to develop more detailed understanding of how to mitigate this potential aggregate risk.

		RISK TOLERANCE					
		6	12	18	24	30	36
LIKELIHOOD	ALMOST CERTAIN	6	12	18	24	30	36
	VERY LIKELY	5	10	15	20	25	30
	LIKELY	4	8	12	16	20	24
	POSSIBLE	3	6	9	12	15	18
	VERY UNLIKELY	2	4	6	8	10	12
	UNFORESEEABLE	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1	2	3	4	5	6
		NEGLECTIBLE	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CRITICAL	CATASTROPHIC
		SEVERITY					

### SEVERITY DEFINITIONS

- NEGLECTIBLE:** May lead to a miscommunication, no foreseeable risk of harm or discomfort, no damage.
- MINOR:** Superficial injury, temporary discomfort or distress, minor property damage.
- MODERATE:** Cuts, grazes or other injury which require on-site first aid, moderate property damage.
- MAJOR:** Minor fractures, requires hospital treatment, absence from work for 3 days or more, major property damage. (RIDDOR)
- CRITICAL:** Major fractures, ill health leading to disability or reportable disease (RIDDOR). critical property damage, e.g. structural.
- CATASTROPHIC:** Amputations, fatality, life shortening illnesses, catastrophic property damage.

### TO CALCULATE RISK SCORE:

- First..... Assess the likelihood of the hazard occurring.
- Second..... Assess the severity of the hazard if it were to occur.
- Third..... Calculate risk score using the matrix to the left. This is done by reading from the box at the intersection between your chosen severity and likelihood figures.

### RISK TOLERANCE:

The Risk Tolerance is 9. Anything above this is deemed an unacceptable risk and appropriate control measures need to be applied in order to reduce the risk factor below 9.

## Singing (Group and One to One)

Hazard	Risk	Who is at Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Score	Control Measure	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Score
Delivery of activities that result in air droplets travelling excessive distance (i.e. Vocal Projection, Singing and Breathing exercises)	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal breathing should be encouraged over forced breath cues as studies have indicated that it is the cumulative aerosol transmission from both those performing in and attending events is likely to create risk</li> <li>Reduce and control any activities that result in forced breath cues (i.e. Vocal Projection, Singing and Breathing exercises).</li> <li>Where such activities are delivered introduce further controls such as;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home based/remote singing lessons</li> </ul>                             As guidance progresses consider                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual singing lessons</li> <li>Small group sizes (in line with this risk assessment and guidance)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2	4	8
Lack of screening prior to an activity with a cumulative enhanced risk	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	5	4	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to "Exposure from others due to:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Living with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19.</li> <li>2) Have come into close contact (within 2 metres for 15 minutes or more) with a confirmed case of COVID-19.</li> <li>3) Being advised by a public health agency that contact with a diagnosed case has occurred.</li> </ol>                             In the main Risk Assessment                         </li> <li>Refer to "Persons the NHS has identified as vulnerable" in the main Risk Assessment</li> </ul>	4	4	16
Arriving and Departing from Singing lessons/sessions	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to the main COVID-19 Risk Assessment</li> <li>Remove any non-essential common areas such as waiting rooms.</li> <li>Consider the taking of temperatures on arrival at the session to confirm whether a low-grade fever (37.8+) is present.</li> <li>Require the individual to complete a COVID-19 symptom</li> </ul>	2	4	8

						questionnaire prior to the session commencing			
Lack of extended Social Distancing	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limiting the number of performers as far as possible (with <b>non-professionals</b> being restricted by rules on <a href="#">meeting people outside your home</a>)</li> <li>Organising and designing repertoire, rehearsals and training to avoid situations where performers cannot socially distance, wherever feasible.</li> <li>Consider the use of technology solutions to reduce interactions and ensure social distancing (for example for castings, rehearsals, training and examinations).</li> <li>To comply with the studio capacities as outlined in the initial Risk Assessment and available on the <a href="http://www.alexralls.co.uk/capacity-calculator/">http://www.alexralls.co.uk/capacity-calculator/</a></li> <li>For singing delivered face-to-face and without mitigations a minimum of 2 metres+ is required between each singer, and between singers and any other people such as accompanists, teachers or examiners</li> <li>Non-professionals should not engage in activities that may lead to social distancing being compromised.</li> <li>For singers working with other individuals, positioning side-to-side or back-to-back and avoiding singing face-to-face even when following the minimum required distance of 2m+</li> </ul>	2	4	8
Lack of ventilation	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring activity takes place outside wherever possible, including performance, but be aware of wind direction</li> <li>If singing indoors, limiting the numbers to account for ventilation of the space and the cumulative aerosol effect</li> <li>Taking steps to improve ventilation as far as possible and whenever possible, both through the use of mechanical systems and opening windows and doors</li> <li>To comply with the studio capacities as outlined in the initial Risk Assessment and available on the <a href="http://www.alexralls.co.uk/capacity-calculator/">http://www.alexralls.co.uk/capacity-calculator/</a> which take ventilation in to account</li> </ul>	2	4	8

Lack of use of booths, barriers or screens	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considering the use of booths, barriers or screens if possible between individual singers and any other people such as accompanists, teachers or examiners</li> </ul>	2	4	8
Use of music, scores etc	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each singer should have their own music and should ideally keep it between rehearsals. If words or music are projected, that is ideal.</li> </ul>	1	4	4
Performance in front of an audience	Contracting and/or conveying COVID-19	All	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure compliance with current guidance prior to considering whether a performance would be appropriate.</li> <li>Limit the duration of social interaction opportunities ie performances as far as possible</li> <li>Limit the number of audience members, noting that capacity should be maintained at a level that allows 2m social distancing to be maintained</li> <li>Encourage audiences to support the overall safety of the event, including discouraging activities which can create aerosol (such as shouting, chanting and singing along), seating individuals rather than allowing them to stand (to help maintain social distancing) and the other mitigations outlined in guidance and this risk assessment.</li> </ul>	2	4	8

Where appropriate refer to Music Unlocked: Guidance for Schools and Music Providers <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-Schools-August-2020.pdf> and <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-Providers-August-2020.pdf>

#### NOTE

Public health is devolved in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; this guidance should be considered alongside local public health and safety requirements and legislation in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. For advice to organisations in other parts of the UK please see guidance set by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, and the Welsh Government. While this guidance applies to England, you should always consider whether there are local restrictions in place in your area. If you live or work in an area that is experiencing a local COVID-19 outbreak and where local restrictions have been imposed, different guidance and legislation will apply. Please consult the local restrictions pages to see if any restrictions are in place in your area.