



Revised Covid-19 Guidance: September 2021

On 19 July the government eased many of the restrictions that had been put in place during the pandemic though there is still a requirement for employers to ensure that they are providing a safe working environment for their employees. This document sets out the measures that we have put in place to keep our music staff safe and the precautions that we would like our music staff to take to protect themselves and others.

1. Instrumental and vocal teaching in schools

We have revised the risk assessments for one-to-one & small group teaching and for MusicPlus and ask that you familiarise yourselves with these documents before teaching in schools. They can be found in the teachers' area of the Kent Music website (see section 3).

Each school will have its own policies for Covid-19 and so it is very important that you familiarise yourselves with the school policies for each school in which you teach. During the school day it is really important that you follow the school guidance for visitors.

The measures that we are expecting you to take are as follows:

- 1.1 We are asking all teachers to continue to follow government **control measures**:
 - ensure good hygiene – frequent and thorough hand cleaning; use a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing
 - clean surfaces as necessary between lessons
 - keep teaching areas well ventilated
 - [follow public health advice](#) on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
- 1.2 **Asymptomatic testing** remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection. We are advising that staff undertake twice weekly home tests – the government will review this at the end of September.
- 1.3 **Face coverings** are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors during the school day. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.

- 1.4 **Social distancing** measures have now ended in the workplace, but should be maintained in lessons and in ensembles as much as possible
- 1.5 **Online teaching** is here to stay. It will continue to be delivered to existing students who have requested this, and it is being offered to new students. However, please continue to encourage ensemble opportunities, for example in a music centre or at school, with your online students
- 1.6 **Hand sanitiser** and **anti-bacterial wipes** can be requested from Gail Batty if you have exhausted your supply or if these are not provided by the school. Please email her directly gbatty@kent-music.com

2. Out of school activities including music centres, county groups, music labs & area events

- 2.1 **Venues and risk assessment**

Each of our out-of-school activities will be the subject of an individual risk assessment. The person responsible for each activity will ensure that the staff are familiar with the risk assessment and the requirements that we have of our staff
- 2.2 **Hygiene and distancing measures**

As for teaching in schools, we are asking staff to continue to following government control measures:

 - ensure good hygiene – frequent and thorough hand cleaning; use a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing. Sanitiser stations will be provided
 - ensure that surfaces are kept clean
 - rehearsal rooms will be kept well ventilated
 - follow [public health advice](#) on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
- 2.3 **Asymptomatic testing** remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection. We are advising that staff undertake twice weekly home tests – the government will review this at the end of September.
- 2.4 **Face coverings** are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors during the school day. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. In some of our music centre venues and other out of school settings we will be asking staff and visitors to wear face coverings on arrival/departure and around the site
- 2.5 **Social distancing** measures have now ended in the workplace, but should be maintained in lessons and in ensembles as much as possible. Please ensure that there is a distance of a minimum of two metres of distance between wind players and singers and a minimum of one metre between players of non-blown instruments.

- 2.5 If you have Covid-19 symptoms or there is someone in your household who does, do not attend the event or activity and follow the government guidance on self-isolating. You must contact the manager of the activity
- 2.6 Sessions will have a break of at least 10 minutes each hour and students will be required to leave the rehearsal area during breaks so that it can be ventilated
- 2.7 Students must bring their own instruments and other equipment. No instruments or other equipment can be shared

3. Further information and reference documents

Please remember to visit the Teachers' Area on the Kent Music website frequently www.kent-music.com/teacher-area. The password is kmteachers19

If you have any questions about this document please email Trevor James, Senior Manager (Tuition & Centres) tjames@kent-music.com

For other teaching enquiries please contact Kirsten Ellington, Tuition Manager kellington@kent-music.com

For enquiries about individual music centres, music labs, county groups or area events, please contact the manager for that activity

Department for Education updated operational guidance www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance

Music Mark, *Music Unlocked*, version 3, September 2021
<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Music-Unlocked-v3.0.pdf>