

Hygiene concept pertaining to professional music, amateur music and extracurricular music lessons in Rhineland-Palatinate

1. General provisions for rehearsals and music lessons

1.1 Mitigation measures for individuals

- a. Individuals showing visible symptoms of a respiratory infection are to be excluded from lessons and rehearsals.
- b. When entering the halls or the performance area, it is mandatory to disinfect or wash hands. Suitable washing facilities or disinfectant dispensers must be provided.
- c. The existing protective measures and rules of conduct (such as general rules of protection from infection incl. the "sneezing etiquette", evaluation of cold symptoms, etc.) are to be indicated by appropriate signs.

1.2 Measures to be implemented in facilities

- a. The rooms used are to be provided with a sufficient and constant fresh air supply. If natural ventilation by opening windows etc. is not possible, provisions of the guidelines for the SARS-CoV-2 occupational health and safety standards of the VBG¹ apply to the area of rehearsal and performance. All rooms are to be provided with disinfectants in sufficient quantities.
- b. The distancing requirements laid down in the prevailing Corona Control Ordinance are to be implemented by providing a pathway concept inside the building.
- c. A mouth and nose cover is to be worn on the premises up until occupying the seat/standing area.
- d. Sanitary and changing rooms are admissible subject to compliance with the required protective measures. A sufficient amount of hand disinfectant, liquid soap and disposable towels is to be provided in sanitary rooms and restrooms.
- e. If the halls are used by different groups one after another, used seats, shelves as well as any other used surfaces are to be disinfected and the hall is to be aired thoroughly after each use. It must be ensured that the room air has been exchanged sufficiently between each use.

¹ German Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention in the Administrative Sector = Verwaltungs-Berufsgenossenschaft

1.3 Rehearsal organization

- a. The contact traceability of the attendees is to be ensured. Contact data (last name, first name, address, telephone number) facilitating notification in case of exposure to the infection, as well as the date and time of attendance is to be collected by the institution in compliance with the provisions of data protection laws and retained for a period of one month; the data is to be deleted immediately after expiry of the retention period.
- b. Each attendee is to be appointed to a fixed seat. This seat cannot be changed during the rehearsal.
- c. If continuous airing of the rehearsal room is not possible, the room is to be aired at least every 30 minutes to ensure that the air in the room has been exchanged.
- d. Shared items are to be disinfected before they are passed on to another person.
- e. Music sheets are to be placed on the designated chairs or at any available personal storage compartments before the rehearsal.
- f. Conversations before and after the rehearsal are to be held outside or with the windows and doors open, if possible.
- g. The mask requirement pursuant to § 1 s. 3 of the 12th Corona Control Ordinance does not apply to musicians during rehearsals and performances.

1.4 Generally applicable

- a. A responsible person is to be appointed at the location to be in charge of ensuring compliance with the regulations.
- b. Persons who are not willing to comply with these rules are to be denied access or stay in accordance with the house order.
- c. In other respects, the competent authority may, in justified individual cases and upon request, allow exemptions or impose other hygiene requirements, provided that a regulation pursuant to the Corona Control Ordinance is not mandatory, the level of protection appears comparable and the purpose of the Corona Control Ordinance is met.

2. Genre-specific guidelines for the rehearsal of professional culture events

2.1 Choirs/Vocals

- a. If possible, the rehearsals are to be held outside.
- b. At outdoor rehearsals, the singers are to be 1.5 meters apart from each other laterally and 2 meters apart towards the singing direction. The distance to the musical conductor is to be kept at 3 meters at least. Spacing is measured from one midpoint of a chair to the other. Choir and audience are to be at least 5 meters apart.
- c. A staggered seating/standing arrangement is recommended for singers.
- d. Any kind of breathing exercises is not allowed.

2.2 Brass orchestras/trombone choirs and other ensembles employing wind instruments

- a. The musicians are to be placed at a distance of 2 meters from each other and at least 2 meters away from the conductor. In the open air, a distance of 1.5 meters between the musicians and at least 2 meters to the conductor is sufficient. The distances are measured from one midpoint of the chair to another.
- b. Unlike other wind instruments, the air in transverse flutes flows directly from the musicians mouth into the surrounding area when the mouthpiece is played, thus allowing droplets to be released. Therefore, a minimum distance of 2 meters, measured from one edge of the chair to the other, is to be maintained within and around this group of instruments. This also applies outdoors.
- c. The distance requirement pursuant to § 1 (2) of the Corona Control Ordinance can be waived for musician groups of up to 10 persons if no increased aerosol emission is to be expected (drummers, percussionists).
- d. The condensed water is not to be poured or dripped on the ground but to be collected in suitably absorbent cloths or pads, which are to be disposed of manually afterwards, followed by washing or disinfecting the hands.
- e. Also to be noted:
 - no mouthpiece exercises for brass and woodwind instruments
 - no lip exercises, buzzing etc. for brass players
 - no breathing exercises
 - all musicians are to clean their own instruments only

2.3 Ensembles not producing increased aerosol emission (plucked string orchestra, harmonica orchestra, string orchestra etc.)

- a. A minimum distance of 1.5 meters between the musicians is to be maintained in accordance with the Corona Control Regulation.

- b. Based on the provision pursuant to §1 (2) of the Corona Control Ordinance, the distance requirement can be waived for a group of up to 10 persons.
- c. The distance to the conductor is to be kept at 1.5 meters at least.
- d. Multiple groups are to maintain a minimum distance of 1.5 meters between each other. It is not permitted to exchange members between groups during a rehearsal.
- e. The ensemble and the audience are to be at least 3 meters apart.
- f. During professional cultural events, the minimum distance between the participants in a rehearsal can be reduced.

2.4 Ensembles with a mixed instrumental setup producing or not producing increased aerosol emission (symphony orchestras etc.)

- a. When performing musical activities without increased aerosol emission (e.g. playing strings), the distancing rules as per point "2.3 Ensembles not producing increased aerosol emission" are to be adhered to.
- b. When performing musical activities with increased aerosol emission (e.g. wind instruments) the distancing rules as per point "2.2 Wind Orchestra" are to be adhered to.
- c. The distancing rules as per point "2.2 Wind Orchestra" are to be complied with between musicians as specified in point a and point b.

2.5 Integrating a choir

- a. If a choir is to be included in the rehearsal of an ensemble as described in 2.2-2.4, the regulations in "2.1 Choirs/Vocals" are to be implemented accordingly.

2.6 Integrating solo artists, who produce increased aerosol output (singers, wind players)

- a. If an ensemble features one or more soloists, who perform a musical activity involving an increased aerosol output (singing, playing wind instruments...), the corresponding regulations according to "2.1 Choirs/Vocals" or "2.2 Wind Orchestra" are to be adhered to.

3. Specific information on extracurricular music lessons (in a music school or association) and continuing education in the field of music

3.1 General information

- a. The rehearsal of ensembles during music lessons and continuing education offers is subject to the rules stated in points 1 and 2.
- b. The rules stated under points 1 and 2 also apply accordingly to private lessons and lessons in small groups of up to 10 people in the music school or club, or as part of continuing education.

3.2 Specific instructions on teaching in the field of elementary music pedagogics

- a. The distance requirement does not apply to children of pre-school age, provided that the common hygiene recommendations for regular operation in daycare facilities in Rhineland-Palatinate are adhered to.
- b. A maximum group size of up to 12 children is recommended.
- c. A maximum group size of up to 12 people is recommended for cross-generational groups such as parent-child groups.
- d. The teaching sessions are to be broken down from 60 to 2 x 30 minutes to allow for adequate room airing as per point 1.3.c.

3.3 Information for teachers

- a. The instructions for personnel assignment in the Corona Hygiene Plan for schools in Rhineland-Palatinate apply here as well.