Performing arts activities and venues must follow all relevant mandates in the order, including:

- Ensure no more than 10 people sit together, and seat groups 6 feet apart.
- At indoor events with fixed seating, limit the number of spectators to 25% of capacity.

Below are additional recommended best practices for performing arts activities and venues.

**Directors, Producers, Conductors, Actors, Dancers, Musicians, Other Performers, Employees and Volunteers**

- Strictly follow Ohio’s face coverings Order when out in public to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 and potentially spreading it during practices/rehearsals/performances.
- When possible, a face covering with a small slit for mouthpiece access should be worn while playing an instrument. In instrument groups where a face covering cannot physically be worn while playing, a face covering should be worn over the chin and replaced during periods when not playing.
- To the extent possible, minimize cross-team contact between actors, stage managers, directing staff, music team, choreography team, creative team, and production staff.
- Pre-record chorus numbers to reduce the number of performers singing live onstage at any one time.
- Identify individuals at higher risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19, such as those with asthma, diabetes, or other health problems and take extra precautions to protect them.

**Patrons**

- Family members should sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/family groups.
- The facility/venue should provide facial coverings for patrons who arrive without one.

**Auditions, Rehearsals, and Performances**

- Modify the process of auditions, rehearsals and performances to maintain a minimum of 6 feet among individuals to the extent possible. When not possible, limit the amount and length of close contact as much as possible.
- Reduce the length of rehearsals to the extent possible.
- Conduct auditions, rehearsals and performances outdoors when possible.
- Speaking loudly, singing, and playing some musical instruments may pose a greater risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19. Consequently, it is recommended to maintain social distancing during auditions, rehearsals and performances, preferably more than 6 feet. When not possible, limit the amount and length of close contact as much as possible.
- Arrange indoor auditions/rehearsals in 30-minute blocks and afterward clear the room for enough time to allow the HVAC system to complete a minimum of one air change based on the system’s air change rate (consult with facility personnel).
- Arrange outdoor auditions/rehearsals in 30-minute blocks with a 5-minute pause between blocks to allow aerosol particles to disperse.

**Equipment**

- Whenever possible, equipment should not be shared, such as microphones and props. When equipment must be shared, it should be disinfected between uses.
- Clean and disinfect props, etc., between rehearsals and performances.
- Personal items in dressing rooms, etc., should have proper separation and should not be shared.
Facilities/Venues
- In “know before you go” communications to patrons, let them know that face coverings must be worn at all times, especially during intermission and in restrooms, except for allowable exceptions.
- Where a box office/will call window does not already have a glass partition between ticketing staff and patrons, install a physical barrier to maintain social distancing.
- Establish directional pathways using signage and floor markings/visual cues, etc., to manage the flow of patrons to promote social distancing at the box office/will call window, when entering and exiting the theater/facility, during the security/bag check, coat check, intermission, in and out of restrooms, at retail/concessions operations, etc.
- Monitor and limit the number of individuals in the lobby area and restrooms to enable at least 6 feet of social distancing.
- Adequate time should be allotted between performances to allow for proper cleaning and disinfection.
- Dressing rooms and other shared spaces should be cleaned and sanitized frequently. Individuals must maintain social distancing while in these rooms, and facial coverings must be worn at all times.
- Discontinue use of self-service racks of flyers, brochures, etc., promoting upcoming performances, etc.
- Consider ways to schedule staggered ingress in order to minimize lines for security check, ticket scanning, coat check, etc.
- Consider not holding intermissions to minimize congregating/lines in the lobby, restroom, etc.
- If an intermission is held, announce at the start that facial coverings must be worn, congregating in the lobby is prohibited, and patrons should return to their seats as quickly as possible.
- Follow Ohio guidance for restaurants and bars and for the consumer, retail, services, and entertainment sector.
- Because playing some musical instruments involves breathing deeply and expelling air forcefully, the risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19 may be increased. Their performance space onstage and in orchestra pits should be arranged to maximize as much social distancing as possible.
- Onstage performers should maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing (and preferably more) from musicians who are also onstage or in the orchestra pit.
- Take measures to reduce the spread of air expelled from musical instruments such as installing bell/instrument covers.
- If necessary to enable greater social distancing, have musicians play from offstage instead of in the orchestra pit.

Equipment (cont.)
- Do not share towels or facial coverings.
- Do not share water bottles or other drinks.
- Do not share food.
- Ensure adequate equipment to prevent the need for sharing (e.g., microphones).

Concessions and Retail Vendors
- Follow Ohio guidance for restaurants and bars and for the consumer, retail, services, and entertainment sector.