

Swindon  
Young  
Musicians



# GUIDANCE FOR SYM RESTARTING IN SEPTEMBER

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GUIDANCE ON CLEANING INSTRUMENTS



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## **What cleaning regime and PPE is available at SYM?**

- Upon arrive at the Platform, students will have their temperature checked. If their temperature is 37.8C or greater, we will ask you to take your child home.
- Hand sanitiser is available at the front door and further sanitisers will be available throughout the building.
- Each student will be signed in by a member of staff taking their name and contact details in order to assist for any track and trace requirements. Parents can assist the students with signing in but will not be permitted to stay and will need to be at the rear door on Reading Road to collect their child at the end of their session(s).
- Students will need to be wearing a face mask as they enter the Platform and will be instructed when they can remove them from time-to-time.
- Each area will be cleaned between the different sections with a 15-minute cleaning time allocated. This will be done with a disinfectant spray and wipe over.
- Each pupil will have their own music folder and music that will not be shared with anyone else.
- There will be one stand for each student and there is to be no sharing of music or stands.
- Screens will be used where necessary for further protection.
- Tutors/conducutors leading group activities will wear a face mask at all times and in some cases will also wear a face shield.
- Tutors will be health checked before they can commence working with your children.

**Remember, if your child is feeling unwell please do not bring them to SYM activities.**

**We will be resuming choirs as soon as we can.**

# **Guidance: Protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Published 1 July 2020**

## **About this guidance**

As the Prime Minister confirmed in his announcement on 23 June, providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children can operate over the summer holiday, subject to the science and with safety measures in place. Adjustments to the current measures for these providers will be part of Step 3 of the recovery strategy (from 4 July).

We recognise the important role out-of-school settings (OOSS) play in providing enriching activities, giving children the opportunity to socialise with others outside their household and promoting their wellbeing. We also recognise the importance of these settings in providing additional childcare options to parents and carers, particularly those with younger children, who may need to return to or continue to work during the school holidays.

We are aware many providers are already considering what protective measures to put in place to allow them to reopen more widely and as safely as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The guidance sets out guidance to support their planning and advises on practical steps they can take to minimise the risk to children, staff and parents who attend their settings by reducing the risk of infection and transmission of the virus.

The scientific evidence suggests that there is a moderate to high degree of confidence that the susceptibility to clinical disease of younger children **(up to age 11 to 13) is lower than for adults**. However, it remains important that protective measures as outlined in this guidance are put in place to help reduce the risk of transmission.

For older children, there is not enough evidence yet to determine whether susceptibility to clinical disease is different to adults. **Children and young people aged over 13 are still able to use out-of-school settings, but where older children are likely to attend, providers should still consider how to minimise any risk of infection and transmission of the virus.** Providers should manage this risk by putting in place the protective measures as outlined in this guidance, for example, encouraging all children attending their setting to walk or cycle to the setting or get dropped off by a member of their household in a private vehicle rather than taking public transport.

Providers of out-of-school and holiday activities operate from a range of premises including schools and other regulated educational institutions, by arrangement with the proprietors of those institutions, and other community premises such as village halls, by arrangement with the owners or managers of those premises. We want to ensure, with this change, that all providers are able to open in:

- their own premises
- education premises, such as schools or colleges (where providers would be using them outside of school hours, or when closed over the school holiday period)
- community-facing premises including village halls, community centres and places of worship

## What was the guidance produced for?

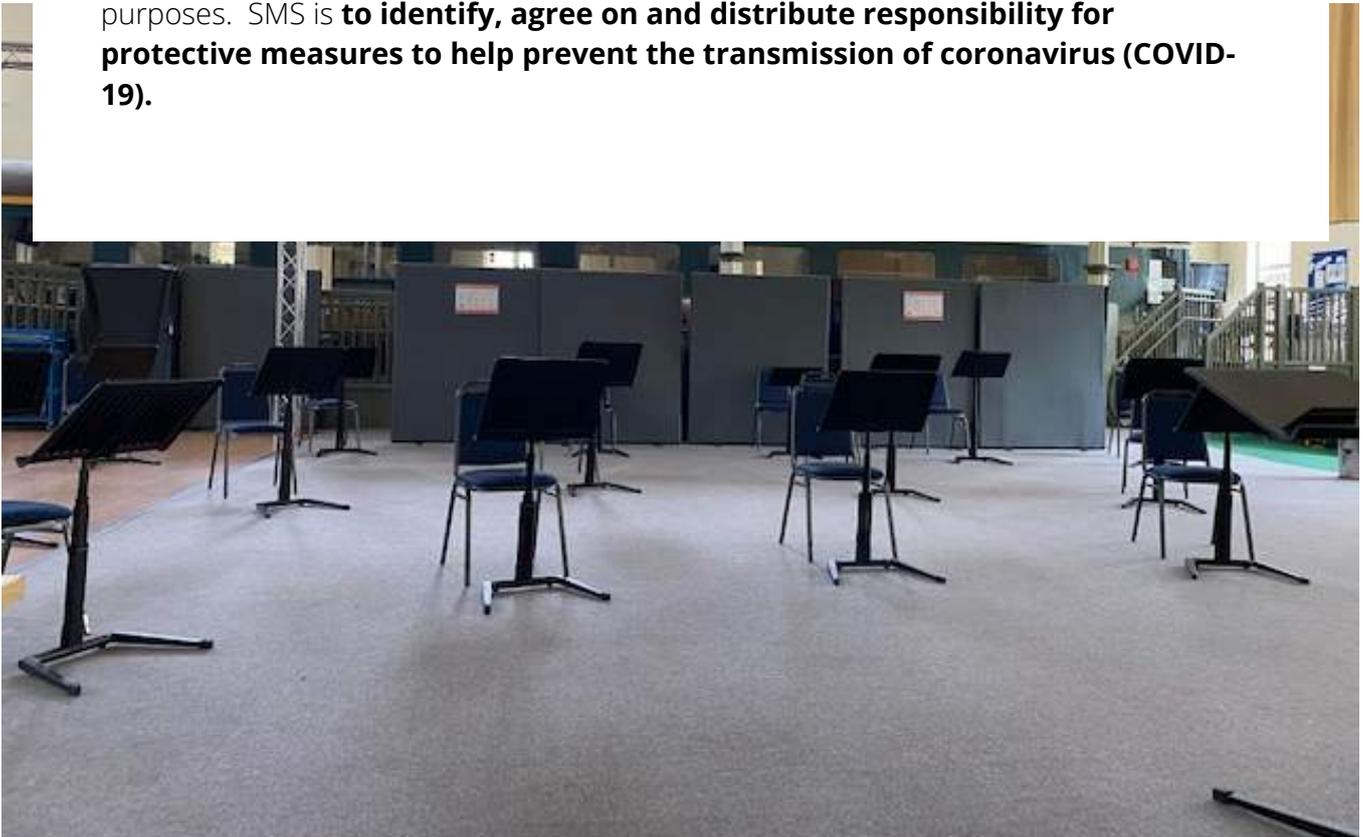
The guidance is for organisations or individuals who provide community activities, tuition, holiday clubs or after-school clubs for children, as well as their staff and volunteers.

It is relevant for those providers which fall within the government's definition of an out-of-school setting (OOSS).

**OOSS generally provide tuition, training, instruction or activities outside normal school hours (such as evenings, weekends, school holidays),** although some OOSS are run part-time during school hours to help meet the needs of those who are typically educated at home. **OOSS include tuition or learning centres, extracurricular clubs,** supplementary schools, uniformed youth organisations, religious settings offering instruction in their own faith, and summer clubs .

**OOSS can occur in many kinds of venue, from a person's home to much larger and more formal places such as community and youth centres, sports clubs, and places of worship. Fees may or may not be charged, and some settings may operate on a commercial basis.**

**It is important that providers understand and follow current government guidelines on protective measures to prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).** Specific protective measures guidance has been released for different types of premises, for example places of worship and outdoor spaces. This guidance signposts to these, and **more than one may be applicable to your provision.** It is also important to note that some premises may only be able to open for certain limited purposes. SMS is **to identify, agree on and distribute responsibility for protective measures to help prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).**



## What the science tells us!

<b>Flutes</b>	<b>1.5m front of the player 0.8m from the end of the flute</b>
<b>Other woodwind except saxes</b>	<b>1.5m</b>
<b>Brass and saxophones</b>	<b>2m from the bell</b>

For most woodwind instruments therefore, 2m distancing should be observed.

Air blown across flute mouthpieces is particularly laden with aerosols and 2m must be regarded as a minimum.

For safety, brass and saxophones should be given more space, perhaps 3m.

Bass clarinets should be treated similarly, owing to their upward-facing bell. Plexiglass screens would provide additional protection to players in front of them.

Most woodwind instruments point downwards, so bioaerosols will largely fall to the floor.

Brass instruments expel air either forwards or upwards: again, larger aerosols will fall under gravity but those below ten microns will remain airborne.

Good ventilation, ideally overhead extraction, will help to disperse and remove these.

Much has been made of demonstrations that air from a trumpet does not blow out a candle. This is because the flare of the bell slows the airflow down and spreads it out as it leaves the instrument. The issue however is still that the smallest aerosols in that airflow will remain airborne and circulate on air currents within the room, hence the emphasis on ventilation.

Players should be discouraged from lifting their bells high, as contaminated water in the instrument can run back into the player's mouth.

Water keys should not be vented directly onto the floor.

Two American studies cultured a surprising variety of bacteria from both woodwind and brass instruments. Newspaper or paper towels should be provided to soak up water (in Norway, anti-bacterial paper is recommended) and players should clear up their own. Alternatively, a small pot containing detergent would also be effective.

The backline of rock groups should be able to observe current recommended social distancing. They should minimise moving and should mostly face forwards. Singers should face forwards; tutors should stay at least 2m distant and not move in front of them while they are singing.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SYM ACTIVITIES

Masks should be worn by all pupils and staff prior to entering the rehearsal room. Masks should continue to be worn until all students are seated and ready for instruction (example, long rests, sectional work, moving around the room, etc.)

No talking should occur in the room without a mask being properly worn.

In instrument groups where a mask cannot physically be worn the mask should be worn over the chin and replaced during periods where the student is not playing.

No talking without a mask.



Social distancing should occur. Currently that distance is a 2m x 2m space around each student with the student sitting in the centre.

This may reduce the number of students that can fit in a performing area/rehearsal room. Straight lines should be used as curved setups can affect the aerosol movement in a room.

Students should sit all facing the same direction, back to front to minimise potential exposure.

Trombones should have an additional 1m of distancing making their space 3x2m. The player should be seated 1m in front of the back line, leaving an additional 2m in front of them due to the extended nature of the instrument and slide that can be in extended position.

Spit valves should not be emptied on the floor. Recommend using a puppy pad (or similar) to catch the contents of the spit valve and discard.

Storage areas should be managed to limit the number of students at a time in the room. Anyone who enters the room should bring a 70% alcohol wipe to wipe all surfaces before and after touching. The wipe should be discarded properly upon leaving the storage area.

Tutors should consider using a portable amplifier to keep their voices at a low conversational volume.

Students should also ask questions in a low conversational volume with a mask.

Tutors are assumed to talk the most and as a result should wear the most efficient mask possible that is readily available, which are surgical masks or/and a face visor.





Conductors should stand 3-5m beyond the front row of wind or brass and may wish to consider a plexiglass screen or similar. For strings and orchestras, 2m will suffice. Social distancing means that each player will require their own music stand. Ideally, each player should keep their own music. Photocopies of most music can be made under the [Schools' Printed Music Licence](#) and the [Music Service Printed Music Licence](#). N.B the schools' licence does not cover peripatetic instrumental and vocal lessons; and hub partners and commissioned organisations will not be covered by these licences.

## **Peripatetic instrumental and vocal lessons**

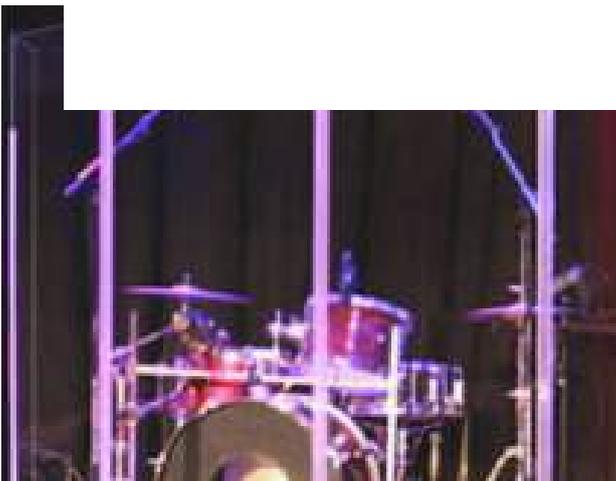
As far as possible, individual and small group lessons should be held in rooms that can be ventilated well.

Minimum recommended social distancing (or 2m distancing for brass, flute and saxophone) must be maintained and groups may have to be split up.

Woodwind and brass tutors will insist on proper cleaning and drying of instruments at the end of lessons but should not allow students to blow or tip water out of instruments in the teaching room. Newspaper, paper towels (or anti-bacterial paper) or pots containing detergent will be provided for venting of water keys and players should remove and dispose of their own at the end of the lesson.

Students come and go but tutors are often in the teaching room for extended periods. Their exposure to multiple people and to the same air possibly for some hours puts them at greater risk. A plexiglass screen may help and they may wish to consider a mask (albeit singers, woodwind and brass players will have to remove it to demonstrate). SYM will be providing screens between tutors and pupils during lessons.

It is sensible for us to timetable additional breaks to ventilate rooms periodically. It should hardly need saying that nobody should ever play anyone else's mouth-blown instrument.



## Cleaning instruments

All instruments present a risk of contact transmission. This is similar to the risk of transmission via door handles, handrails etc around the school. Instruments that are only used by one person should be cleaned as usual but with additional care. If instruments are used by more than one person (e.g. classroom percussion), or taken in and reallocated (e.g. at the end of a whole-class programme or hire period), meticulous cleaning is called for.

This advice is being shared with schools and can be contextualised as needed. Some processes are not intended to be taught to or carried out by pupils. Not all will be practical or even desirable every time an instrument is played.

The guidance is written with normal school and student instruments in mind. It is not intended for higher quality or antique instruments.

COVID-19 virus particles are believed to survive for two to five days on hard surfaces. Disinfectant wipes and/or sprays are effective but bear in mind that most instruments contain multiple materials. Some disinfectant products will damage the pads of woodwind instruments and varnished or polished finishes.

Hot, soapy water is just as effective as disinfectant wipes. Instruments or parts of instruments made entirely from plastic may be submersed. The same applies to brass instruments but take the valves out first and set them aside. Recorders can even be dishwashed in the top rack.

Do not immerse or soak woodwind instruments with cork joints or with keywork as it may damage pads: this includes flute headjoints, as it will damage the headcork.

After playing, woodwind instruments should at minimum be dried in and out with swabs or pull-throughs to limit microbial growth. Fully drying even small brass instruments is not practical but it is extremely important to clean the mouthpiece using an appropriately sized mouthpiece brush, to ensure that all dirt and debris are removed.

Plastic piano and electronic keyboards can be sanitised with disinfectant wipes (unplug electronic equipment first). Do not spray them as residues may harm key mechanisms. It is a good idea to dry keys off afterwards. Ivory keys will be damaged by most disinfectant products. Clean them with a cloth dipped in soapy water and wrung out; leave the residue on for thirty seconds and wipe with a dry cloth.

Handles and straps of percussion instruments and beaters should be wiped similarly.



For wooden instruments, follow manufacturers' instructions or test your cleaning product on an inconspicuous surface. You may want to wipe the chinrests of violins or violas but it probably is not necessary (pure sweat is not thought to carry viruses). The neck and fingerboard and the lower end of the bow of all bowed strings may also be wiped.

Knobs, buttons, sliders etc on ICT equipment, amplifiers, backlines, CD/MP3 players and so forth should be wiped with antiseptic wipes. Do not use sprays or soaked cloths, to avoid liquids getting inside equipment. Areas such as the home button on iPads and the mesh of microphones are particularly bad for harbouring microbes. As prevention is better than cure, using a popscreen with microphones will reduce contamination. Always unplug equipment from the mains before cleaning.

After five days of not being played, normal cleaning of any equipment will suffice.

### **Sharing instruments**

Good hand hygiene and wiping handling surfaces when changing players controls risks for most keyboard, percussion and string instruments. Sharing mouth-blown instruments is not considered safe. Risks may be mitigated if the following points can be fully and consistently applied every time:

- every brass and woodwind pupil should have their own mouthpiece;
- reeds must never be shared;
- mouthpieces and upper tubing, crooks or headjoints must be thoroughly washed before and after playing and dried before putting back in the case. However Music Mark does not recommend these measures and we repeat for clarity that sharing mouth-blown instruments is not considered safe. Tutors should also impress on students that they should not share instruments even with family members.

### **If practical music making together becomes safe for a while do to further lockdowns**

We will ensure resources are made available for pupils to continue to play their music at this time.

More advice on cleaning different instruments is available from this American website: <https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812235/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines.pdf>

In the UK, the Music Industries Association is gathering relevant information on its website: <https://www.mia.org.uk/covid-19/>.

### **SMS Cleaning Guidance**

You can view our instrument cleaning guidance by clicking on the picture



## Documents that have informed this Guidance:

Government Guidance for Out of School Settings.

Music Mark - Music Unlocked

Music Service Guidance for Cleaning Musical Instruments

Music Service Risk Assessment for Musical Activities at The Platform

## Links

**SYM Risk Assessment** We have published our risk assessments for the Platform with supplementary risk assessments for various families of instruments. you can view these Risk Assessments by clicking on the picture below)



**SYM Activities and instrumental lessons Timetable** [Click here](#) - to view the new timetable for activities starting in September).

## SYM Online Resources

[Click there](#) to access online resources for those wishing to take part in activities from their own home. These resources are password protected and will only be available for those pupils who have signed up to SYM subscription.

## Frequently Asked Questions

you can view our FAQs page on the website by clicking here.