

## **Artist Covid Guidelines for Festival Favours – July 2021.**

All engaged contractors, freelancers and performers will have copies of all relevant policies and risk assessments made available in advance.

All engaged contractors, freelancers and performers will be expected to treat the measures set out in all Edinburgh International Festival Covid-19 and Health & Safety documentation as a minimum expected standard whenever working or performing on behalf of the International Festival. If their own working policies have a higher standard, then they are welcome to follow those.

Contractors, Freelancers, and Performers will be monitored to ensure they are complying with International Festival Covid-19 and Health & Safety measures.

### **BEFORE ARRIVING AT YOUR FAVOR**

Persons who are 'high risk' as defined by Scottish Government guidance **should not come to work:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-shielding/pages/highest-risk-classification/>

While we strive to reduce the likelihood of contracting COVID during our Favour activities, if transmission does happen, you are likely to feel the effects worse than most. Please stay at home. If you have caring duties for someone who is shielding, again we would ask you to stay at home as the safety of those and the ones you love is the highest priority.

### **FOR THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND A FESTIVAL FAVOUR**

It is important that you are feeling well and able to attend and deliver your Festival Favour. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature but if you do it is a temperature of 37.8C or greater).
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. If you suspect you have any COVID-19 symptoms you should follow Scottish Government Test & Protect Guidance and contact 111.

As part of the test & protect you will be asked to self-isolate at home for 10 days if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or you have tested positive for it. If you live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive, or if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, you will be asked to self-isolate at home for 10 days.

## **TESTING**

With the Covid-19 mitigation measures that Edinburgh International Festival has in place, and this working guidance, we are not introducing a compulsory testing system for any of our projects. However, we are strongly advising artists to use the Government's free lateral-flow tests in advance of performing a Favour if they are comfortable to. Test kits are available from:

<https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/condition>

To note, even with regular negative lateral-flow tests, please continue to follow all negative covid mitigation measures.

## **TRAVELLING TO AND ARRIVING AT FESTIVAL FAVOURS**

Please take time to work out how it is best for you to travel:

Please where possible travel using private transport, walking or cycle. Support is available to help you achieve this.

- If you need to use public transport please use as few connections as possible and follow government guidelines with social distancing, wearing a mask and using hand sanitiser.
- If you have to car share, please follow the guidelines outlined by the Scottish Government:
- keep to small groups of people (such as up to 6 at any one time in a minibus)
- keep your distance and take care entering and exiting the vehicle
- sit as far apart as possible in the vehicle, avoiding face-to-face
- maintain good ventilation by keeping the car windows open
- wear a face covering, unless you are exempt
- clean your hands before and after your journey
- if the vehicle is your responsibility, clean the door handles and other areas that people touch

## **DURING FESTIVAL FAVOURS**

All engaged contractors, freelancers and performers should fill out and return a Self-Declaration form supplied via email in advance.

- No one should arrive unannounced to the building.
- You may be allocated a specific time to arrive to avoid congestion. Please stick to those times.
- Face covering should be worn while moving around inside buildings and in communal places.
- There should be no personal contact and 2 metre social distancing should be maintained at all times.
- Regularly wash or sanitise your hands. A hand sanitiser station and anti-bacterial wipe will be available.
- Please supply your own mask or face covering.
- Regularly clean any equipment, tables, chairs that you use.
- Extra cleaning of high touch areas should be done during the day.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES ARE OVERRIDDEN BY THE NEED TO PROTECT YOURSELVES AND OTHERS.** You should continue to social distance once outside the building.

## **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Please respect other individuals' views on the guidelines relating to COVID-19. If you feel the above guidelines are not being followed, please discuss this with your International Festival Favours Liaison.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by significant changes and returning to non-digital work. Here are a few tips to bear in mind:

**Our jobs will remain the same** – we may just have to alter how we do them.

The success of our response is directly related to how we respond to the pandemic.

Please be aware of other indirect Covid-19 effects and respect them. Some examples include:

- Restricted ability to engage in Free Movement
- Restricted Social Interactions (in-person)
- Prohibition of attending Places of Entertainment (cinemas, theatres, bars etc.)
- Increased rates of depression & anxiety triggered by COVID-19
- Increased rates of Mental Ill-Health related to economic, social and relationship issues
- Physical Indirect Covid-19 effects:
- Reduced physical activity due to lockdown measures.
- Skin-related Dermatitis caused by increased Hand-Washing.
- Reduced treatment of non-COVID-19 Physical Health issues

Although some workers may face more change than others: we are all facing significant changes at the same time.