



PROTOCOLS

THEATRE ARTS IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training



The COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting disruption in education, has caused a re-examination of many of the regular processes which would normally be used to facilitate learning in schools. Practical subjects like Theatre Arts have been impacted. The following represents a list of protocols to be considered in the teaching of Theatre Arts at the school level in a COVID-19 Environment. These protocols apply to whatever space is being used for Theatre Arts or for a Theatre Arts Production (Theatre Arts Room/ Classroom/ School Hall/ other designated space).

- Adhere to social distancing of three feet, as determined by Government protocols. If necessary and possible, divide large Theatre Art's classes into small work groups and place groups in separate rooms if possible. (There may also be implications for Team Teaching and or for Parent Support, in the organization of larger classes.)
- Sanitize students' hands upon entrance to the Theatre Arts class space and have an easily identifiable hand washing and or hand sanitizing station in the Theatre Arts room or production space.
- Everyone should be required to wear masks throughout class as determined by Government protocols.
- For rehearsals for practical assessments and for practical exams, students should be allowed to wear face shields, in lieu of masks, to facilitate good voice projection and diction, with social distancing being observed.
- Encourage students to bring their own marked water bottles.
- There must be no sharing of food, water or beverages among students.

- Wipe down or spray all surfaces—chairs, set pieces, props, rails, technical hardware, etc. before and after rehearsal, using CDC-approved disinfectants. (Schools will determine how this function is managed by janitorial staff).
- There must be no sharing of makeup, costumes, or wigs.
- Costumes and wigs should be sanitized after each rehearsal.
- Hold larger classes/rehearsals in the hall or a large outdoor space.
- Schedule staggered bathroom breaks to ensure social distancing guidelines are adhered to.
- Provide a hand-washing station if possible and or have hand sanitizer/rubbing alcohol readily available in the dressing rooms, Theatre Arts room, classroom/production area.
- Classrooms/ Theatre Arts Rooms, changing rooms and or production areas should be sanitized before and after rehearsals/classes, using approved disinfectants. (Schools will determine how this function is managed by janitorial staff).
- Students should not share any voice amplification equipment, if possible. When microphones are used, they must be sanitized afterwards. Headsets, sound and light boards (when used) should also be sanitized before and after each rehearsal per manufacturer instructions.
- In the event of special productions, minimise clustering of students not directly involved in a particular rehearsal by prohibiting the attendance of such students.
- Avoid unnecessary touching, movement or singing that might increase the transmission of aerosol droplets. Allow for solo singing in productions/plays as opposed to large groups and ensure that those singing or delivering lines are appropriately socially distanced.
- Provide scripts for each student where printed copies are used but digital sharing of scripts is preferred.
- Conduct technical rehearsals with the minimal number of students possible and adhere to social distancing for both performers and technical/stage teams.
- If a student complains of feeling unwell, send him/her to the Principal's office so that appropriate procedures can be followed.

*(Some adaptation from Educational Theatre Association, (2020)
Recommendations for Re-Opening School Theatre Programs: Theatre
Education in the Time of COVID-19)*