



Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

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October 15th, 2021

COVID – Music-Making and Performances

- Contact information should be saved for a minimum of 30 days in a secure place.
- Gathering restrictions (other than the explicit ones for informal social gatherings not hosted by an organization and those designated for funeral services) are such that appropriate social distancing be maintained by both audience/congregation and participants/performers.
- The audience/congregation must remain masked throughout.
- Performers must be at least 2m (and preferably 4m) from audience/congregation, ideally not facing anyone directly. The number of choristers is limited to the available space with this physical distancing.

Those involved in group singing and playing instruments (wind/brass) should consider the following guidelines:

- Performers and participants should not attend events while ill, even if symptoms are mild. If an individual feels unwell, they should complete the COVID-19 Daily Checklist and follow directions provided.
- Maintain physical distance between performers and others (e.g. staff, spectators, congregation).
- Consider how to maintain physical distance when participants and spectators or congregants move throughout the space.
- Use physical barriers (e.g. plexiglass) where physical distancing is difficult to maintain. Barriers need to be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- If possible, have performers and participants face away from others while singing or playing wind or brass instruments.
- Use outdoor sites where possible to further minimize risks. If indoors, the site should be well ventilated.
- Post signage to inform participants of signs/symptoms and reminders about physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Signs can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/resources/>
- Participants should conduct frequent hand hygiene and practice respiratory etiquette. Access to hand hygiene (e.g. handwashing or use of alcohol-based hand rub) stations should be available.
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- If live music is being used for ambiance, lower volume of the music. Lower music volume allows the other individuals present to more consistently practice physical distancing (reduces need for close or loud talking).
- Keep a list of performers and participants present and contact information to assist Public Health with contact tracing, if needed (for a minimum of 30 days).
- **Choir practices** also require masks and physical distancing. Choir practices must be held in a well-ventilated space and should not exceed 90 minutes in length. Self-screening and attendance must be taken for contact tracing purposes.

Restrictions specific to Prince Edward Island

Masks are not required when seated at indoor faith gatherings and services at places of worship, including while singing, as long as physical distancing can be maintained throughout the activity, event, or service. This said, mask usage is encouraged even in these circumstances and remains the safest option.

- Performers or officiants such as ministers and readers can choose to remove their mask while talking or singing.
- Individual performers are not required to wear masks while performing activities requiring vocalization, such as talking or singing. This applies at: social events; arts and culture events; sports and physical activities; and weddings, funerals, and other faith gatherings.
- For performance groups where physical distancing cannot be maintained (such as choirs), masks are required while rehearsing and recommended when performing.