

Safe Listening Protocol – Infection Control

Virtual Acoustic Audience Reality (VAAR) Test of Concept Event

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Summary

This Protocol explains how infection safety relating to COVID-19 will be applied during a test event where two artists will attend a venue to broadcast to a virtual audience, as part of the VAAR innovation proof of concept. The aim is to set out a procedure that minimises risk to artists, venue staff and the public at large, and has been prepared with safety as the primary concern.

The World Health Organisation advice on their website has been applied and the final draft will be shared with UK Gov Department of Culture Media and Sport for comments.

The Concept of VAAR

You can see a sketch short film on the video tab of our website to illustrate the idea:

<https://www.eventsrevivalalliance.co.uk/video> or <https://youtu.be/hHmDd-ECE0>

Further information is also available on the website:

<https://www.eventsrevivalalliance.co.uk/>

The idea is to put artists back into the venues, from where they perform a set which is broadcast using VAAR concepts that allow the audience to connect with the artist in real-time, virtually.

C19 PROTOCOL

The general approach is to be ready for Coronavirus, to be **Safe, Smart and Kind**.

Respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and proactively that you remind people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately. Be aware that clothes will pick up virus load

Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19

Avoiding touching your face is also advised, to minimise transmission to susceptible areas, such as mouth, nose and eyes.

Physical Distancing

A distance of at least 2m should be maintained between people, and physical contact such shaking hands avoided.

The Artists

The artist have their own personal protective equipment (masks, gloves), which they will either have washed prior to days use at a hot temperature setting, or disinfect with alcohol spray or wipes with >65% concentration. They should be worn so masks fit tightly around the face, without gaps.

They will travel to the venue as part of essential travel, in their own car, or a hired car, sitting in the rear seat of a hackney cab, which has a screen between passenger and driver. The fare should be paid by contactless, or prepaid to avoid contact.

The artist will wear gloves and a mask in transit and keep at least 2m from anyone they encounter throughout.

Once arriving they will enter the venue by a designated route, which has been deep cleaned, directly to the performance space, maintaining mask and gloves.

The artists will be limited to two and will set up their equipment with an exclusion zones of 2m between them when on stage. Only the vocalist should have their mask removed, and gloves only removed when in contact with their own equipment. Masks should be removed from the fastenings being careful to minimise touching the mask as much as possible, and placing it in a dedicated bag brought with the artist for later use. The artist should then wash their hands, in the prescribed way, having removed gloves.

A dedicated toilet, running water and soap should be available to artists so that are not shared or touched by anyone else during the visit, and which have been cleansed prior to being offered. Artists should wash their hands regularly, using the Government prescribed method.

The Venue

The number of technical staff and staff should be kept to a minimum. Each person should wash hands on entry to the building in a wash facility not that designated to the artist.

The areas where the artist could be in contact should be deep cleaned ahead of their arrival, where the venue has had occupancy in the past 48 hours and in areas used following the artists departure.

The equipment which might be used, such as amps that the artist may touch will be wiped with alcohol wipes.

Staff should maximise distance from artist, but be no closer than 2m and where possible communicate from the control rooms to avoid and minimise any chance of cross contamination.

Third Party Equipment

Any third party equipment, such as laptops, phones etc. that are sent to the venue shall be disinfected with wipes containing the correct percentage of alcohol and unpacked by staff wearing gloves. They should be wiped again and placed in the performance space. Anyone handling them should use gloves and wear a mask to avoid droplets from coughs or sneezing.

The equipment should be wiped again before being repackaged and returned.

Sources :

The above advice is informed and goes further than that set out by the World Health Organisation, which can be found at this link: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>