

## **Festival Place Performances During COVID-19**

**Please provide an update on changes to the provincial guidance on singing and how that impacts Festival Place performances.**

Festival Place is able to accommodate the majority of changes to the provincial guidance for singing performances (updated version: Sep. 11). While we can accommodate most changes, there is one specific guidance point that creates challenges. This is that mask usage by singers while performing indoors should occur.

We do believe our stage is likely at a far enough distance from the audience that this should not be a safety issue, and that a performer's mask would not be required. Upon double-checking with a representative from AHS however, they noted a mask would still be required.

Our subject matter experts have advised that wearing a mask while singing would be inhibiting for vocal performers, and that sound level mixing would not be of expected quality. With this in mind, we asked the representative from AHS about alternative solutions such as plexi-glass barriers in front of vocal performers, to which the representative noted this would not be recommended.

Given this, indoor performances will continue to be focused on instrumental components at this time. We will continue to monitor guidance for adjustments and look to work with AHS to find long-term solutions that allow for indoor vocal performances to occur in a safe manner, in which sound quality can also be achieved.