



Music Teaching during Pandemic: COVID-19 Protocol

by
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Acknowledgements

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Playright Music
Protocol for Music Instruction During Pandemic
for the attention of
Students, Parents, Visitors

Preamble

This document has been informed by the 'Return to Work Safely Protocol' issued by the Dept. of Health, Ireland and by information on the website of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This document will be updated in accordance with advice from the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Dept. of Education and Skills (Dept. Ed)

The health and safety of all students and their families and our staff and families are preeminent during this COVID-19 pandemic.

This protocol provides a method of working safely in the area of music education and prior agreement to this is required before lessons and classes resume. All students, staff and visitors are required to observe this protocol.

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions for improvement regarding this protocol, please contact us at lessons@playrightmusicltd.com or by phone: 01 842 2463

General Points

- Anyone can have the COVID-19 virus and not have symptoms. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu. Good health and low temperature does not mean you are safe! Anyone can spread the virus and only discover 14 days later that they have been positive. Students, Parents, Staff are required to take this seriously.

- All lessons and meetings are by appointment only. Try to be punctual. Please do not arrive earlier than your appointed time. Waiting and loitering before and after is not permitted during the pandemic.
- Let's all behave as if we may have the virus and be guided by a safety-first attitude and behaviour.
- All students including young children must wear masks and/or visors. If masks are not tolerated by the young, then a visor will suffice.
Exception: Children aged 5 years and under are not required to wear masks (WHO). Any other exception has to be negotiated with us and be balanced with consideration of our own vulnerabilities and the vulnerabilities of others to will visit after you.

Assertion of Fitness to Participate in Music Classes/Lessons

- Students are expected to answer truthfully the following questions before each appointment:
 1. Have you travelled outside of Ireland to a non-green list country in the previous 14 days?
 2. Do you have symptoms of aches and pains, breathlessness, cough, fatigue, fever or chills, high temperature, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, runny nose, sore throat, now or in the previous 14 days?
 3. Have you been in close contact with anyone who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days?
 4. Have you been advised by a doctor to self-isolate at this time?

Unwell and Missing a Class or Lesson

- Students should not attend an in-person lesson if unwell and might be infectious (e.g. aches and pains, breathlessness, cough, fatigue, fever or chills, high temperature, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, runny nose, sore throat).
- If you attend a group class, your class has to be forfeited: the appointment time has passed.

Your classmates may tell you if any new content has been covered and may be able to send you a photo of any worksheet to help you keep up to date. Avoid asking classmates for a physical copy.

- If you attend an individual lesson, you may instead submit a video of your performance for comments as long as it is delivered before your appointment time and we are made aware of this in good time (landline phone call). Then we can do this work during your lesson time. Otherwise, the lesson is forfeited. The appointment time has passed.
- If you are advised to self-isolate due to COVID-19, and can provide a doctor's certificate, we will try fairly to make up for lessons missed with Video Performance Reports when time permits or in-person lessons when the opportunity arises (i.e. pre-notified cancellations).
- If a student is unwell and unable to attend class, please phone in advance to let us know. This is especially important if the student is a child who makes their own way unaccompanied.

Attending Classes or Lessons

Before you leave home

- Avoid drinking any carbonated or sugary drinks for 30 mins before you leave home. If you are thirsty, only drink water.
- Please use your bathroom whether you need it or not!
- Wash your hands thoroughly before you leave home. This helps hand sanitizer to be as effective as possible. Sanitizer has little effect on hands that are dirty, greasy or sweaty.
- It is recommended to gargle with an antiseptic mouthwash (e.g. Listerine) if you are likely to sing in class.
- Bring a personal bag with your own tissues, hand towel and any items of personal hygiene you require just in case of need.
- If you have a high temperature, fever, cough, or any infection, you must stay at home.

Entry

- The Front Porch will be left unlocked so you may shelter while waiting for the door to be opened.
- If someone has to exit, stand back and let them leave before you enter. People leaving have right of way.
- Use the doorbell in the porch before using sanitizer.
- A hand sanitizer dispenser has been installed in porch. It is contactless and works once you place your hand below it. There is no reason to touch the dispenser. Instruct young children not to play with it and explain its purpose. Please use the sanitizer before coming beyond the porch.
- Sign visitors' book on hall table.
This is for contact tracing, if required.
- Your temperature may be checked on your first visit.
On subsequent visits you will have to assert that your temperature is similar to before and definitely not 38 degrees Celsius or higher.
- As a convenience to you, this assertion may be available to you as a form online. You can enter the details on the form within 24 hours prior to your arrival. This will save time during your visit.

Music Room

- Furniture has been reduced to offer students more space for social distancing.
- Do not touch the piano until after hands are completely and fully dry from the sanitizer: alcohol takes the shine off the keys and polished parts of the piano and can stain the finish with unsightly, ingrained finger or hand prints that may never clean off and this impacts the value of the piano. Students are requested to leave the care of the piano to the teacher who will follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

- Please touch as little of the furnishings as possible, computer monitor, computer keyboard, electronic keyboard, door handles, light switches etc.
- Please keep a distance from others and allow others have personal space. This is important during turn-taking activities and taking time at the piano: Allow others time to move away before you start to approach.
- Since the space available is less than 2 metres per person, masks must be worn during lessons.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- If you touch your eyes, nose or mouth you must sanitize again and wait for hands to be completely dry.
- Do not share resources with another student nor ask to use ours. Bring your own pen, pencil and eraser if required. Bring your own books, worksheets and writing paper.
- Do not share food, drinks, cups or bottles with others.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the music room.
- Toilet and washing facilities are available and may be used if required. Communal towel is removed so bring your personal one. If you bring a paper towel, dispose of it in a bin and not in the toilet where it may cause a blockage. If you require such items, please ask.
- If you feel unwell during your lesson and experience symptoms of COVID-19, you must let your teacher know. You will be taken to a safe area while waiting for transport to take you home. This will keep everyone safe.

Exiting After Your Class or Lesson

- Leave the music room promptly when your lesson has finished. It will be necessary to clean the piano and music stands, to exchange the air

between appointments and to avoid unnecessary contact between students.

- Remember to allow and maintain distance from others who may be leaving at the same time as you.
- You may use sanitizer on way out if you wish.

Parents, Guardians, Friends, Observers during Pandemic

- Parents are expected to discuss this protocol in an age-appropriate way with their children and to encourage older children to take it seriously.
- Our long-standing approach of welcoming parents to attend lessons has to be suspended for the duration of the pandemic. For now, we must operate a '*drop-and-collect*' policy to help keep social contacts with as few people as possible. Just like national schools, parents are requested not to enter unless for very essential purposes such as planned meetings by appointment.
- If your very young child is not yet independent and fearful of staying in the music room without you, then just one parent may stay in the music room and must wear a mask. If your child is already independent, (can use the toilet with good hygiene) we discourage the parent to come inside during the pandemic.

For families with more than one student coming for successive lessons:

During the pandemic we request that only one student attends a lesson at a time. Waiting for lessons is not possible during the pandemic. Each student is requested to attend only for the duration of an individual appointment.

- Parents are discouraged from chatting before and after lessons for now. If you need to discuss progress or similar issues, please phone or email. Time between lessons is to be devoted to on-going cleaning and ventilating the room in preparation for the next arrival.
- If parents need to attend for any *essential* purpose, wearing a face mask is expected. Entry may be refused without wearing a mask or visor.

- Payment of fees in cash or by cheque: please use an envelope and write on the outside the important details: Your Name, Student's Name, Date, Amount payable, Change due. We supply these envelopes on request. The envelopes help avoid handling notes and coinage and aid in doing accounts at an appropriate time subsequently. Alternatively, for contactless payments, fees may be paid online direct to bank. Please request IBAN details. So we may identify who made the payment, please hand in an empty envelope with your payment details on the front: Your name, Amount, Account Number, Payment Ref (if used), Date of payment, etc.

Possible Closures

- If the Irish Government requires closure of all schools to contain the COVID-19 infection rate, and if we decide it is unsafe to continue in-person tuition, the term will be suspended to resume when it is safe.
- If a student is working for examinations such as advanced graded exams (Gr 6–8), Leaving Cert, Junior Cert, Music College Performance, the option of moving to Video Performance Reports may be offered.
- If the teacher has to self-isolate, the term will be suspended and resume when it is safe.

Possible Risk

- We have put in place a range of protective measures including physical and social changes to reduce spread of COVID-19 according to government directives and best practice. We are willing to improve our implementation in line with best advice.
- We cannot guarantee protection from COVID-19 infection, but if all students and visitors observe our safety requirements, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is very low. We each take this risk individually.

By following this protocol, we can make progress in music safely.

Being aware that working while wearing masks and visors is not normal and may even be frightening for some young children, we will keep the mood light and enjoyable once this protocol is being observed.

Thank you for your collaboration, cooperation, and support.

Dated: 14th September, 2020

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Daniel Walsh

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Appendix I: Agreeing to Implement the Protocol

Towards keeping each other safe from the virus, and towards modifying our behaviour to consider the wellbeing even of people with whom we may not have direct contact in person, it is important that each student and parent assert that they have read this protocol and agree to implement it.

Before starting or resuming music classes/lessons, students are required to complete a form on our website similar to this.

This is an assertion that you have read and agreed to implement the protocol. Therefore it is necessary that each student submits the form individually.

I have read this protocol and agree to implement it for the duration of the pandemic.

I understand the protocol helps keep me safe and helps me to keep others safe too.

Name of student:

Name of parent if student is under 18 yrs:

Email Address:

Visit our website PlayrightMusicLtd.com/COVID-19-Protocol.html to complete this form.

Appendix II: References and Further Information

The following sites and articles are useful resources.

For more information about the COVID-19 virus, how it is transmitted and what to do to avoid contracting it, visit the HSE website: <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

An article about how Corona virus is spread:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/how-coronavirus-is-spread.html>

World Health Organisation (WHO) Q&A: Schools and COVID-19:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-schools-and-covid-19>

Dept. Education and Skills: Advice and resources for parents and students:

<https://www.education.ie/covid19>

Notes

