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MINISTRY OF CULTURE & SPORTS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE**

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**EXTREMELY URGENT**

**SUBJECT: HEALTH SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR REHEARSALS**

Re: The guidelines of the Greek National Committee for the Protection of Public Health dated 18/06/2020 and the previous related document by the Secretary General of Contemporary Culture dated 14/05/2020

This document is based on the guidelines and recommendations of the COVID-19 Committee of Experts of the Greek Ministry of Health and provides guidelines for safe rehearsals.

Rehearsals can start again from May 18, 2020, provided that the epidemiological data allow it.

**a) Venue**

- Rehearsals should take place in open-air spaces or well-ventilated closed spaces
- Only open circuit air conditioners are allowed.
- Indoor areas should be disinfected with a 10: 1 chlorine solution, i.e. 9 parts water and 1-part bleach, before and after each performance. This also applies to sanitary facilities. For surfaces that may be damaged using sodium hypochlorite, a 70% ethanol solution can be used. Emphasis should be given to surfaces that are frequently touched such as knobs, switches, handrails and so on.
- A 70% alcohol antiseptic gel should be readily available.
- For the restrooms, rules include:
  - Good ventilation
  - Closing the toilet lid before flushing
  - The use of disposable toilet seat covers is encouraged
  - Running water and supplies with soap, paper towels, trash bins with foot pedals

- Where possible it is encouraged to use equipment with foot pedals, touchless or motion activated (e.g. for water, soap dispensers)
- The use of air hand driers is not allowed
- 1.5m distances should be observed in queues
- Non-medical masks are recommended
- In case washbasins have not been used for a long time, it is recommended to run hot water for 5 minutes before the first use.
- Showers should not be used
- Adequate space in locker rooms and dressing rooms should be available. Changing clothes should take place only when necessary. In case there is not enough room for everyone, the space should either be used in rotation or other available rooms should be used as additional locker rooms / dressing rooms. Personal belongings should be kept inside bags. Dressing rooms should have adequate ventilation.
- It is recommended to designate one-way aisles and corridors.
- Sufficient time should be planned between the end of an event and the start of the next one so that spectators of the first can leave and spectators of the second can enter without coinciding and without overcrowding the common areas, so there will be enough time to disinfect between performances / actions.
- The venue's canteens/bars is allowed to operate before and during the events so that spectators can visit them at different times during the event. To avoid overcrowding and unnecessary moves, no intermissions will be allowed. All necessary measures must be observed, including a 1.5m distance between those queuing up, antiseptic gel should be available and there must be a one-way flow to and from the canteens/bars. It is recommended to create paths by cordoning off areas to ensure the smooth flow of the public. Staff should wear gloves and non-medical protective masks, while contactless transactions are encouraged.

## **b) Rehearsals**

- The 1.5m distance should be observed also during rehearsals
- Choir members should be 1.5m apart from each other and use a mask if possible.
- For wind instruments and drums 2m distance should be observed, while for brass instruments there should be an additional individual Plexiglas separator
- All equipment used must be disinfected in advance, in the manner indicated by the manufacturer.
- Regarding drums it should be borne in mind that the emitted aerosol by the vibrating membrane can be potentially contaminated. For this reason, drums must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. based on the manufacturer's instructions.
- It is advised that non-medical masks are used during rehearsal, as well as 70% alcohol sanitizer
- Used non-medical fabric masks should be placed in plastic bags, washed at 60°C and ironed.
- Special care should be taken regarding employees belonging in higher risk groups.
- People who show symptoms should leave the rehearsal immediately, wearing a mask.

- If a scene requires touching, the actors involved are obliged to disinfect their hands before and after the scene's rehearsal. Any contact must be very brief. Scenes where an actor must touch another actor's face should also be avoided.
- Regarding costumes, wigs, makeup if used in rehearsals
  - They should be used only by the performers who wear them. Performers ideally should dress themselves.
  - Personal clothing should be kept inside bags and costumes should be kept in separate covers.
  - Costumes should be steam cleaned before and after use, especially if shared.
  - Costume artists, hairdressers etc. should also have ample workspace so that the 1.5m distance can be applied.
  - Ideally, artists should take care of their own makeup. If this is not possible, makeup should be done with the use of a personal kit for each artist, while observing all safety instructions. Makeup stations must be cleaned after each use. It is extremely important to keep makeup kits away from the other. No makeup items should be shared.
  - Ideally, hairdressing items should not be shared either
  - Professional hairdressers, makeup artists, costume designers etc. must wear gloves (which they will change for each different artist) and a non-medical mask each time they look after an artist. If the artist chooses to take care of his/her own appearance by himself/herself, professionals will have an advisory role, keeping a safe distance.
- Only necessary personnel should be present during rehearsals. The public is not allowed.
- For tracing purposes, it is advised that a record of those present is kept, as well as any symptoms noted
- Checking the personnel's temperature is not advised as it is not efficient measure to avoid spreading the virus
- Lunch break should take place in an adequately ventilated space where health safety measures can be observed, including the 1.5m distance measure. Tables, chairs, and the floors should be disinfected before each use. Food should come in portions, wrapped. It should be distributed by staff members wearing non-medical masks and gloves. Water, refreshments etc. should be distributed in individual, sealed containers. After lunch, waste should be safely disposed.

### **c) Public**

- The public is advised to wear non-medical masks and use a 70% alcohol antiseptic gel for their hands
- Special care should be taken regarding the public's flow at the entrance and exit of the venue.
- At the entrance and exit, queues observing the 1.5m distance between people should be observed. It is recommended to enter and exit gradually in waves. The use of ushers to coordinate the flow is mandatory. The entrance and exit doors of the spectators at the venues should be different, where possible. The use of a non-medical mask by each spectator at the entrance and until the placement of each spectator in its place as well as at its exit, is mandatory.
- The organizers of the events should ensure that the public will queue up safely, both at the entrance and exit of the venue as well as in other venue spaces (e.g. from the parking lot).

- As mentioned above, intermissions are not allowed, both in order not to create congestion and to save time for disinfection and cleaning.
- Regarding ticketing:
  - E-ticketing is strongly recommended
  - Contactless ticket validation/scanning
  - Installation of partitions in cash registers, ticket booths and counters - queues observing the 1.5m distance between people should be observed
  - Discouragement of on the spot ticket purchasing to avoid long queues.
  - Contactless transactions where required
- After the end of each event, all disposable protective items, water bottles, etc. should be discarded in special sealed containers.

#### **d) Employee safety**

- All public-facing employees (cashiers, ushers, cleaners, guards etc.) must wear protective non-medical masks and gloves.

The above measures are indicative as they cannot cover all possible cases. They should be applied in parallel with the broader measures in place. For this reason, there must be constant monitoring of the relevant developments through the website of the Greek National Public Health Organization at <https://eody.gov.gr/en/covid-19/>.

All parties involved should demonstrate responsibility, protecting themselves and others. Venue and event organizers should ensure to protect employees and spectators and, at their discretion, take additional measures required on a case by case basis.

This is a translation of the official document in Greek. In case of discrepancies, the Greek version prevails.

Secretary General of Contemporary Culture

Nicholas Yatromanolakis

Exact Copy

Central Registry

MATSOUKA EFSTATHIA

