



COVID-19 Safety Plan for Indoor Events 'Safety Lives Here' Overview

The following protocols constitute the basis of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's '**Safety Lives Here**' COVID-19 plan which will be immediately enforced to ensure a safe return to physically distanced indoor events within Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework parameters.

The health and well-being of our audiences, artists, volunteers and employees is of the utmost importance to us. Our '**Safety Lives Here**' protocols are informed by Niagara Region Public Health guidelines, City of St. Catharines bylaws, provincial regulations as well as industry guides for reopening venues such as The Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide. This document and the protocols prescribed herein are regularly reviewed and updated as changes to guidelines and gathering sizes are adjusted.

Under the government of Ontario's [COVID-19 Response Framework](#), the Red (Control) zone of public health measures allows for live shows and performing arts with the following restrictions:

- Closed to spectators
- Rehearsal or performing a recorded or broadcasted event permitted, with restrictions, which include:
 - Performers and employees must maintain 2 metres physical distance except for purposes of the performance
 - Singers and players of brass or wind instruments must be separated from any other performers by plexiglass or other impermeable barrier
- Drive-in performances permitted
- A [safety plan](#) is required to be prepared and made available upon request

Based on these restrictions and further government guidelines for our industry, we have established safety protocols that are robust and meet or exceed required practices. Although no event can be guaranteed to be free from risk of transferring COVID-19, we are doing everything reasonable to ensure a safe return to live events at the PAC.

The PAC has also appointed a COVID Compliance Officer (CCO) to oversee the safe execution of events. The CCO or CCO designate is on site, from set up to strike, for all events and is responsible for the adherence to the Safety Lives Here protocols by artists, volunteers and employees. The CCO is also responsible for regularly monitoring current guidelines for live events to ensure ongoing compliance to various levels of government and public health requirements for the live event industry.

Below is an overview of what you can expect when attending events at the PAC.

Cleaning Protocols

- The PAC has instituted continuous cleaning and disinfecting of all high touch surfaces whenever artists, volunteers and employees are inside the venue.
- In public areas, hourly disinfecting of door handles, handrails, push plates, elevator buttons on the inside and outside of elevators, reception desks and ticket counters, sink faucets, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, washroom countertops, toilet handles, water fountains, and garbage receptacles will occur.
- Washrooms are disinfected with a solution deemed effective by [Health Canada](#)
 - o After disinfecting, washrooms are cleaned and then disinfected again to ensure they are safe for artists, volunteers and employees
- The PAC uses [electrostatic sprayers](#) to disinfect washrooms and venue seating areas between performances. The electrostatic technology ensures that the approved disinfectant covers the entire surface of areas to achieve maximum effectiveness of the disinfecting process.

COVID-19 Artist Safety

- Specific '**Safety Lives Here**' guidelines for visiting artists, their crew and entourage have been developed for the safe execution of live events at the PAC.
- All visiting artists, their crew and entourage are required to fill out the COVID-19 [screening tool](#) upon arrival and will attest to their fitness to perform at the PAC.
- All visiting artists, their crew and entourage are required to follow physical distancing protocols and wear masks at all times except during the sound check and the performance.
- Patrons will notice either plexi or another impermeable barrier between vocalists and musicians who play wind or brass instruments and the audience.
- Artists will be physically distanced on stage except where closer contact is required for the purposes of the performance.

Rapid Response Protocols

- All artists, volunteers and employees will be required to answer screening questions and affirm that they are feeling well and able to attend work or events at the PAC
- Artists Rapid Response Protocol:
 - o A screening checklist will be sent directly to artists and all members of their entourage before they arrive for them to fill out and bring with them. Blank copies will also be on site should any artist or member of their entourage forget to bring the screening checklist with them.
 - o The technical supervisor on duty will confirm that the Artists and all members of their entourage are feeling well and have brought their Screening checklists.



- Should an artist or a member of their entourage suddenly develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be sent home and told to contact Niagara Region Public Health for next steps.
 - The technical supervisor on duty will notify the CCO of the symptomatic individual and the CCO will ensure that all rapid response protocols are followed including immediately ensuring that tracing of the
 - If the artist or any member of their entourage is in physical distress, the technical supervisor on duty will call 911 and request an ambulance, being sure to inform dispatch that the patient is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19
 - All other members of the artist and entourage group will also be sent home and asked to contact Public Health about appropriate next steps.
 - Any other individual, audience member, volunteer or employee, who is discovered to have had significant contact with the affected patient will be sent home to self isolate and told to contact public health. Close contact is defined as more than 10 minutes of close contact.
 - Any areas where the affected person has been, will be disinfected following PAC cleaning and disinfecting protocols by PAC cleaning staff.
 - The CCO in charge will call the Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services COVID-19 Hotline with the name of the patient that was sent home with symptoms: [905-688-8248](tel:905-688-8248) *Press 7* and then *Press 2*
- Staff Rapid Response Protocol:
- All staff are required to fill out a screening checklist on their first shift and required to self screen during the sign in protocols every day thereafter attesting to their fitness for work.
 - All supervisors are to confirm with their staff that they are feeling well and have no symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and have provided the screening checklist on their first day of work.
 - If a staff member suddenly develops symptoms while at work, they must notify their supervisor immediately or if their supervisor is not available, a supervisor on duty. The affected staff member will be sent home immediately and instructed to contact Niagara Region Public Health about appropriate next steps.
 - If the staff member is in physical distress their supervisor or a supervisor on duty will call 911 and request an ambulance, notifying them that the patient is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19
 - Any other member of staff, audience, volunteers or artist and their entourage who have come in close prolonged contact with the affected staff member will be sent home and instructed to contact Niagara Region Public Health about appropriate next steps

- The supervisor, or the supervisor on duty, will notify the CCO of the staff member experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and confirm the steps being taken. The CCO will notify the JHSC of the situation involving the staff member.
 - Any areas where the staff member has been will be disinfected following PAC cleaning and disinfecting protocols by PAC cleaning staff.
 - The CCO, or the supervisor of the staff member affected, will call the Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services COVID-19 Hotline with the name of the staff member that was sent home with symptoms: [905-688-8248](tel:905-688-8248) *Press 7* and then *Press 2*
- Public Rapid Response Protocol:
- All members of the public will be asked if they have read the screening questions at the entrances to the PAC and will confirm to a PAC staff member or volunteer that they are free of any symptoms and have not travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.
 - The name and phone number of at least one member of any audience group will be included on the contact tracing log
 - Should a member of the public notify us that they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, we will confirm their name and phone number and instruct them to go home and contact Public Health about next steps
 - If the member of the public is in physical distress the CCO or a supervisor on duty will call 911 and request an ambulance, notifying them that the patient is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19
 - All members of the group will be sent home and instructed to contact Niagara Region Public Health
 - Supervisor in charge will call the Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services COVID-19 Hotline with the name of the individual that was sent home with symptoms: [905-688-8248](tel:905-688-8248) *Press 7* and then *Press 2*
- Note: A thermal temperature gun is included in our safety kit and will be available should a member of the audience, a staff member or volunteer, or a visiting artist request that their temperature be taken
- Should it be required, the thermal temperature gun will be disinfected between use