

Treehouse Theatre

Risk Assessment for a Play-in-a-Day, with additional assessment for Covid-19

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('Workshop' is used to mean a Play-in-a-Day throughout this document)

A Play-in-a-Day (normal format)

This workshop is designed for schools where it is possible for the whole year group to come together for the whole afternoon, and for a short assembly to start the day

If classes are mixing for workshops, we can accommodate up to 150 children. Unmixed classes, the maximum is 4 classes

There will be no contact with uninvolved year groups

A decision on whether to offer the normal format will be taken on a school-by-school basis, taking into account the number of children, size of hall, chosen play, and any other relevant factors

Preparation by school

Please allocate each child to one of the 4 workshop groups. No-one can be in 2 workshops.

Please ensure the hall is booked for our use all day, including for set up before school starts, and it should not be accessed by any other students.

Risks from Drama workshops in relation to Covid-19:

Possible Risks

Action

Actor has Covid-19 but is non-symptomatic and unaware.

Actors will practice social distance with everyone in the school community, and wear face coverings at times when this is not possible (eg on arrival)

Workshops will be rescheduled for 2 weeks later if any member of the actors household has symptoms or is asked to isolate (even if they have no symptoms).

Actors will remain 2m from audience members at all times, and further away whenever possible.

Actors will take their temperature on the morning of the performance, and reschedule for 2 weeks later if required.

Actors will use hand-washing and/or hand sanitiser at regular intervals when in school, and in particular immediately before laying out seating/props/costumes for school use

The virus is spread (airborne) within the workshop environment

Actors, staff and students to follow PHE guidance for hygiene - using tissues and handwashing

The largest available space should be used, and windows and doors should be open throughout.

No group singing - if the Treehouse actors perform songs, the audience will be shown how to join in with actions and clapping

The warm up activities will not include communal singing

Children / staff coming into contact with the actor/s

Seating areas for children will be marked, including a clear edge with either mats or tape to keep students and actor separate. Children will be shown the layout at the start of the workshop so they clearly understand where everyone can be.

Staff seated with children to help remind them.

During the workshop, children will be directed to avoid facing each other and avoid any contact with each other or the actor

Children / staff not being a safe distance from each other

In class workshops and whole group activity - Generous acting space for children to use to avoid any close contact

Staff seated with children to help remind them to keep the spacing when they get up and down to act.

During the workshop activities, children will be directed to avoid facing each other when delivering dialogue

During the workshop activities, children will not be asked to do anything which may involve contact or sharing props

Treehouse Theatre carrying the virus between schools

Treehouse actors will follow PHE guidance for hygiene, before entering school premises and throughout the visit .

Treehouse Theatre will space out bookings, with 72 hours between bookings of the same workshop at different schools.

Each of our different workshops have their own discrete sets of props and costumes so its easy for us to track when and where they are last used.

Children will be encouraged to dress up in home-made costumes. Where Treehouse costumes are used, each costume is allocated to a specific child for the day and not shared, and all will be washed after every use or isolated for 72 hours (if not washable)

Props will be allocated to a specific child for the workshop for the whole day, and not shared. They will be cleaned after every use or isolated for 72 hours (if not washable)

Props and costumes that can't be washed will not be used again until they have been isolated for at least 72 hours.
Costume Masks or costume face coverings will not be worn

Positive tests / self isolations

BEFORE THE VISIT - Workshops will be rescheduled if the year group has to self-isolate or school is closed
BEFORE THE VISIT - Workshops will be rescheduled, or (where possible) a different actor supplied, if the actor or any member of the actors household has symptoms or is asked to isolate.
AFTER THE VISIT - Schools must let us know if they have any positive cases within 2 weeks of our visit so that our actors can self-isolate if required
AFTER THE VISIT - Treehouse will inform school if the actor that visited has a positive test with 2 weeks of our visit

Summary of Risk assessment (COVID-19)

For staff and students: LOW RISK

The level of risk from our visit of a single person working in a similar way to a teacher, would not greatly add to the existing risk level for staff and students of being in school anyway.

For Treehouse actors: LOW-MEDIUM RISK

The level of risk to actors of visiting schools is clearly greater than staying at home, however schools are carefully managed environments with a good understanding of risk management on all sides, and clear strategies in place.

Documents referenced:

"Guidance for Full opening: Schools" Published by UK Department for Education, Updated 17th September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

"Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - Music, dance and drama in schools" Published by UK Department for Education, Updated 17th September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#music-dance-and-drama-in-school>

"Public Health Advice to minimise coronavirus (Covid-19) risks" Published by UK Department for Education, Updated 17th September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-1-public-health-advice-to-minimise-coronavirus-covid-19-risks>

"Working Safely during Coronavirus: Performing Arts" Published by UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Updated 11th September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

"Handling props, musical instruments, technical equipment, and other objects" Published by DCMS, Updated 11th September 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts#arts-5-4>

"Cleaning of non-healthcare settings" Published by Public Health England, Updated 15th July 2020

(For advice on cleaning props and costumes, and time virus stays infectious on surfaces)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Press release "Indoor performances with socially distanced audiences will be able to take place across the country from 1 August 2020" Published by DCMS, 17th July 2020

(Detail of the 5 stage roadmap for performing arts)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/audiences-back-in-theatres-from-1-august>