



THE SAFE WAY FORWARD

# COVID-19 Safety Protocols: Singers

## What You Need to Know

A safe return to work will be impossible without stringent and consistent safety protocols across our industry. These protocols are designed to ensure that performers and others are as safe as possible, while allowing production and recording activity to resume. The detailed application of these protocols is subject to discussion with and approval of SAG-AFTRA.

It must be noted that creative considerations are important, but they do not take priority over safety considerations in the implementation of these protocols. The following protocols are applicable for all work performed, regardless of whether the session is actually recorded, and expressly including rehearsals.

## Prior to Sessions

### a. Testing

- We affirm the principle that regular, periodic testing for COVID-19 is critical for a safe return to work.

- This protocol addresses the implementation of this principle for projects of short duration, not to exceed two consecutive production days total.
- For projects meeting this criterion, one COVID-19 virus diagnostic (PCR) test shall be administered to each performer and each person working in proximity to performers at any time. Results of such test shall be received prior to start of work (excluding pre-production activities for which PPE can be worn and physical distancing maintained). The maximum elapsed time from the collection of the test sample to the conclusion of work is 72 hours.
- Anyone testing positive will not be permitted to work until such time as they are cleared of infection.
- Some projects may warrant an exception to testing, such as projects recorded remotely with performers working from home.
- Employers are responsible for arranging testing, including the cost of testing.

- Performer time spent testing is work time and must be properly compensated.
- For productions exceeding the 72 hour total time from test sample to wrap, the testing protocols set forth in the *Safe Way Forward* document are applicable.
- b.** Studios must have registration capability for tracking of individuals present in connection with sessions.
- c.** Avoid using any equipment that requires close contact. For mics that require close contact, assign individually to each vocalist and label them accordingly. Ensure disposable items like microphone coverings are disposed of properly.
- d.** Protective equipment such as hand washing stations, hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, disinfecting spray, and sanitizing wipes must be made available.
- e.** Individual sheet music must be provided either digitally or in single use paper form. Individual music stands must be provided.
- f.** Common areas in facilities must be cleaned/sanitized regularly (e.g., light switches, surfaces, doorknobs, phones, water dispensers, coffee machines, cabinet handles, refrigerator handles, microwave buttons, chairs and arm/back rests, etc.) by professional cleaners with COVID-19 sanitization training.
- g.** Studios should be cleaned/sanitized before and after each session, including the microphone, POP filters, music stand, and any other equipment the performer will come in contact with, per CDC sanitation guidelines, by an individual trained in COVID-19 sanitization procedures.
- h.** Limit the number of people at the session by having individuals who need to observe the session do so remotely and those in attendance

and not on mic wear protective face coverings and practice physical distancing at all times.

- i.** For equipment received from a record label for home use, disinfect prior to using. Prevent equipment from changing hands as much as possible.
- j.** All areas in which singing will be performed must have sufficient ventilation or air filtration to provide for 100% exchange of air or filtration of air between uses, based on manufacturer specifications for the ventilation or filtration equipment. Portable units should be located as close to the source of aerosol generation as possible. Air filtration equipment must be MERV-13 rated or higher. If an area does not have adequate ventilation or filtration, the space must remain unused for a minimum of four hours between uses to allow time for clearing of potential aerosols.

## Day of Session

- a.** Anyone unwell or symptomatic must not be allowed to participate in a recording session unless they are able to record alone at their home studio.
- b.** All individuals who will be present in connection with the session must be temperature screened prior to entering the studio in accordance with CDC temperature screening guidelines.
- c.** Anyone interacting with performers must wear PPE at all times (a face mask and optional face shield) and maintain minimum six-foot physical distancing.
- d.** Performers can request equipment sanitization be conducted in their presence to ensure the work space is sanitized.
- e.** Vocalists are allowed to use their own headphones and pop filters if they prefer.
- f.** Only one singer in a booth at a time. When not

on mic, singers must wear protective face masks.

- g.** Solo or duo singers must perform alone in individual isolation booths whenever possible.
- h.** Singers singing in larger groups without individual isolation booths and not wearing PPE during the performance must be situated no less than eight feet apart, provided that singers participating are tested for COVID on a daily basis, and with each of the following protocols in place:
  - No singers directly or indirectly facing the front or back of another singer
  - Whether in half circle or straight line, singers are to direct their voice and breathing in an outward

direction, away from other individuals as much as possible

- Studios are to accommodate these layouts and additional mics or creative placements as needed.
- All other personnel, including conductors, directors and creatives should maintain no less than a 20-foot distance from the group.
- If singers singing in groups are not tested for COVID on a daily basis, the minimum physical distancing without PPE in use is 15 feet. All other protocols remain in effect.

Additional questions:  
**(855) SAG-AFTRA**

To report to SAG-AFTRA issues regarding safety, call:

**EMERGENCY HOTLINE**  
**(844) SAFER SET / (844) 723-3773**  
24 hours, seven days a week

**NON-EMERGENCY SAFETY LINE**  
**(323) 765-2911, M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. PT**  
(voicemail is available)