

	<p style="text-align: center;">The Salvation Army United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coronavirus task force response document</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Coronavirus and Band Guidance</u></p>	<p>Issued: 19/03/2020</p> <p>Review by (ENSURE SIGNED OFF SERVICE HEAD: Corps Officers and Band Leaders</p>
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1. Introduction and Purpose

Music is an essential part of the Salvation Army's mission. There are risks associated with bands and the transmission of the virus Covid-19. This guidance will help to minimise such risks and if followed should allow music to be made with some degree of safety.

2. Scope

This guidance applies to all bands within the UK & Ireland Territory of the Salvation Army. It is issued in response to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and will apply for the duration. It will be reviewed as official guidance changes or in line with the advice given by The Salvation Army.

3. Procedure

Covid-19 is transmitted in bodily fluids, especially in saliva and in expectorate from the lungs. The playing of brass instruments involves using the breath to make a noise. Saliva is present in the breath, and builds up in the instrument during playing. If not controlled, these two factors can cause a risk of transmission of Covid-19.

There are some simple steps we can take to reduce this risk:

- a. Consider the use of recorded music
- b. In line with official guidance (as of March 2020) anyone with symptoms of any respiratory condition, even of a common cold, should stay at home and avoid contact with others for seven days
- c. Always wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds on entering a building and before touching your instrument
- d. Identify if any members of your band or your meeting are in the high-risk groups: briefly this is
 - i. Anyone with a respiratory illness (COPD, chronic asthma, chronic bronchitis etc.)
 - ii. Anyone with diabetes
 - iii. Anyone with a compromised immune system (people on chemotherapy, people with hepatitis or HIV, people on immune compromising medication for arthritis etc.)
 - iv. People over 70 who are otherwise fit

- e. People in the meeting who are in the at-risk groups should be asked to sit furthest away from the band
- f. Band members in at-risk groups must be informed of the risk and should be offered the option of not playing
- g. Do not share mouth-pieces or instruments unless they are thoroughly cleaned before use
- h. Instruments must be cleaned before being put away
- i. After playing the floor should be thoroughly cleaned to remove any traces of saliva. No special cleaning materials are needed, the usual floor-cleaners will suffice

In addition to the above, consideration could be given to reducing the frequency of rehearsals.

When playing outdoors it is likely that any saliva will be rapidly dispersed, though collectors can be asked to stand at least two metres in front of the band if this is possible.

Advice from Brass Bands England is that competitions should be cancelled until further notice.

4. Further Support

Brass Bands England has issued a position statement at <https://www.bbe.org.uk/news/15032020-0022/bbe-statement-the-covid-19-pandemic>

OurHub has general guidance about Covid-19 <https://ourhub.salvationarmy.org.uk/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>

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