



National principles for reactivating live performance venues and events

November 2020

The National Principles aim to provide the live performance industry with strategic guidance for reactivating in a COVIDSafe environment.

The National Principles should be read in conjunction with the **Roadmap for Reactivating Live Performance Venues and Events**, which provides a guide for resuming such activities in Australia. While the National Principles and Roadmap provide a general guide, individual jurisdictions may provide further guidance with regard to local epidemiology, risk mitigation strategies and public health capacity.

National Principles for Reactivating Live Performance Venues and Events

Category	Principles
Value of live performance	1. Live performance is an integral component to arts and cultural activities which can contribute many health, economic, social and cultural benefits to the Australian society emerging from the COVID-19 environment.
	2. Decisions to resume live performance in a COVIDSafe manner will take into account these benefits and the sector's requirements, including ongoing sustainability.
Public health advice driving decisions	3. Resumption of live performance should not compromise the health of participants, performers, artists, crew, staff, contractors, volunteers, patrons and the broader community.
	4. Resumption of live performance will be based on objective health advice, considering the local epidemiological and public health conditions to ensure live performance can be conducted safely while minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
	5. All individuals who participate in, and contribute to, live performance will be considered in resumption plans, including vulnerable cohorts such as people with disability, the elderly, and Indigenous Australians.
	6. The safety and wellbeing of the Australian community will be the priority in any further and specific direction about the reactivation of live performance venues and events, which will be considered by the COVID-19 Arts and Health Advisory Committee, in its advice to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

Category	Principles	
Risk management principles and Work Health and Safety (WHS)	7.	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic requires a uniquely focused approach to work health and safety (WHS)¹ as it applies to businesses, workers and others in the workplace. Organisations and venues hosting live performance events must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a risk assessment of the event/activity with consideration of the current epidemiology and the physical environment and develop their own COVIDSafe risk management plan to ensure that the risk relating to the event/activity is managed as far as is reasonably practicable. • Apply significantly enhanced risk mitigation (including avoidance, hygiene measures, physical distancing and contact tracing) to all indoor and outdoor spaces, including rehearsal rooms, theatres, galleries, green rooms, box office, amenities, recording studios, mixed use arts spaces, etc. • Communicate to participants, performers, artists, crew, staff, contractors, volunteers, patrons and the broader community about safety strategies in place to build awareness and confidence in these policies and to encourage compliance.
	8.	<p>Where an event or activity is to take place in a venue not owned by the organisation or artist, the organisation or artist may be required to comply with any existing measures in place by the venue operator.</p>
Governance and the role of states and territories	9.	<p>Jurisdictions provide advice, education, compliance and enforcement of WHS and public health measures.</p>
	10.	<p>Organisations and live performance venue operators must respond to and comply with Public Health Authorities at all times. Localised outbreaks may require restrictions in activities and organisations and operators must be ready to respond accordingly.</p>
	11.	<p>Organisations and live performance venue operators are responsible for complying with all measures enforced by the respective jurisdiction(s) and/or Local Public Health Authorities to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and for seeking approvals/exemptions from relevant authorities to recommence activity and touring where required.²</p>

¹ Safe Work Australia has developed [National COVID-19 safe workplace principles](#) and provides a central hub for WHS guidance and tools.

² For **domestic touring**: seek exemption from the relevant jurisdiction(s) if border restrictions for travellers coming from specific locations are in place. For **international touring**: if visa approvals or international tours to Australia are required, seek additional exemption/approvals from the Department of Home Affairs and the originating country.