



## **COVID-SAFE FESTIVALS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 1. Where can I find the list of 2021 District Festivals? Which festivals are live and which will be virtual?**  
*Click on this link: <https://smfa.ca/district-festivals/> and the button on the top of that page. The list is updated frequently (i.e. changes to entry close dates, changes of format, cancellations) so keep checking. Updates will be posted on the District Festival web pages (i.e. deadlines for video submissions). Contact the District Festival for questions pertaining to their festival.*
- 2. What rules are in place, for protection of the public, for live festivals?**  
**SMFA Guidelines for COVID Safe Festivals** are found on our home page at [www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca). As this is a living, changing document, please ensure you are reading the latest update. Visit the **Government of Saskatchewan's COVID-19 webpage** for the most up-to-date information, self-assessment tool, testing information and risk level in Saskatchewan. **Performing Arts Guidelines** must be followed in all SMFA festivals.
- 3. Can a District Festival (live) impose more stringent guidelines?**  
*Yes. Safety protocols in some venues may supersede SMFA guidelines and must be followed.*
- 4. What category do music festivals fall under in the public health measures?**  
*Indoor Public Event Gathering, currently limited to 30 people in attendance. **Performing Arts Guidelines***  
**What documentation is required from the District Festival?**  
*The Large Public Venue Event Preparedness Checklist has been emailed to all District Festivals planning a live festival. Complete and submit to the COVID-10 Response Unit ([CRU@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:CRU@health.gov.sk.ca)) at least 14 days prior to the event. Attach the current copy of **SMFA Guidelines to Hosting Festivals**.*
- 5. Are we allowed to record our live festival and share publicly with an audience? We know we'll have limited or no audience at our sessions. If allowed, what kind of privacy releases are needed?**  
*For 2021, SMFA is allowing festivals to record and share sessions (i.e. YouTube, livestream on Facebook). A signed media waiver must be obtained from each participant in the video. Festivals that do not already have a signed waiver may use the Media Release Form on our website.*
- 6. Does SMFA have insurance to cover festivals from all things COVID?**  
*There is no insurance covering illness, COVID or otherwise. Live festivals need to obtain a signed [Waiver and Release Form](#) from each participant, accompanist and adjudicator, in advance of the festival.*
- 7. I'm confused about entries for duets, small ensembles, and groups already rehearsing in cohorts. Can you please clarify what is allowed – for all disciplines, and for same household members, and members not from the same household?**  
*In order to safeguard all of our stakeholders, only solo competitors (including lieder and concerto entries), duo piano entries, and duets limited to participants living in the same household (this applies to both live and recorded festivals) will be allowed to enter SMFA competitions. Same cohort school bands/ensembles/duets/choral speech practiced and recorded in the school environment are allowed in virtual festivals.*



**8. For virtual festivals, is a professional recording required?**

*Professional recordings are not required but good audio and visual quality is important. The quality on most cell phones is adequate. The recording must include a clear picture of the student playing, showing face/facial profile, hands and feet (in the case of pianist and instrumentalist), and instrument. Camera angle must remain consistent throughout the performance. The [Dolby on](#) app is recommended for enhanced quality of video and sound. For entries requiring more than one selection, (Provincial, Concert Groups, SK Excellence Classes, etc.), selections may be performed consecutively on one video or submitted in separate videos. Please adhere to time limits, where applicable.*

**9. What are the rules for masking at Plan A (live) festivals?**

*Everyone, including performers and adjudicators, must wear a non-medical mask at all times **including during performances**. SHA Guidelines state the following exception for musicians playing a woodwind, brass or other instrument operated by breath: masks may be removed only if they can maintain a distance of three metres from others while playing. Bell covers are recommended – masks with slits are not allowed. Vocalists may consider a singer's mask.*

**10. What are the rules for masking at Plan B (recorded) festivals?**

*People gathering in a public place (performers, accompanist, videographer, festival officials) must be masked at all times. See exception for woodwind and brass players in No. 9.*

**11. What are the rules for masking for recordings submitted to Plan C (virtual) festivals?**

*If anyone from outside the immediate household is in attendance during the recording of the performance, **everyone (including musician, accompanist, teacher, videographer, etc.)** must be masked at all times.*

*If the musician is unaccompanied (or accompanied by a member of the immediate household), and no one outside the household is present during the recording, masking is not required.*

*If the musician is performing with recorded accompaniment, and no one outside the immediate household is present during the recording, masking is not required.*

**12. How can an adjudicator judge a singer's performance when the singer is masked, given that facial expression, diction and vocal projection will be affected?**

*While we acknowledge that singing while masked is not ideal, SHA has decreed that singers must be masked, and until those guidelines are relaxed, anyone attending or participating in a Saskatchewan Music Festival **must** follow the public health guidelines as set out by the Province. We trust in the ability of our adjudicators to understand the limitations placed upon singers, and to deliver a fair and meaningful adjudication considering the circumstances.*

**13. Can a face shield, or barrier between a soloist and accompanist/audience act as a replacement for a mask?**

*There are very few exemptions to indoor mask use at this time. The Business Response Team has extensively discussed mask exemptions for singers. At this time there is no exemption for a singer wearing a mask. Considerations of space and barriers may be considered, if and when restrictions are loosened. However, barriers and face shields to this point have not been deemed sufficient to prevent the spread of droplets or aerosols.*



**14. During a live festival, can the adjudicator give verbal remarks from the piano?**

*Yes, where protocols regarding masking, sanitizing and social distancing are applied. Festivals may want to consider providing a microphone for verbal adjudications.*

**15. Do I need to provide a copy of my music for the adjudicator?**

*For both virtual and live festivals, adjudicators have been asked to source copies of all repertoire. In cases where the adjudicator is unable to locate repertoire, the adjudicator will contact the District Festival committee and arrangements will be made to secure a copy. A festival committee representative will act as the liaison; direct communication between adjudicators and competitors is not permitted prior to the festival.*

**16. What if the adjudicator's edition is different from mine?**

*This is an unusual year, and we need to respond with different expectations. Adjudicators are professional musicians and teachers, who will do their best to deliver a fair and meaningful adjudication in spite of an imperfect situation.*

**17. How will adjudicator marking sheets and certificates be handled?**

*In order to reduce common touch surfaces, District Festivals have been provided with fillable marking sheets and certificates which can be sent electronically to participants following the festival. Festival committees will fill in the heading of each marking sheet before sending to the adjudicator. Adjudicators are asked to bring their own devices to complete marking sheets electronically. Where paper options are used, adjudicators will be asked to supply their own writing devices. A festival representative will be responsible for gathering paperwork and distributing to participants, after a suitable quarantine period (minimum 24 hours). We recommend that the electronic option be used, wherever possible.*