



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR COMHALTAS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Comhaltas Guidelines and Communications distributed to Comhaltas units are based on Government Guidelines in the Republic of Ireland. All units should first and foremost adhere to the guidelines issued by the jurisdiction they are governed by.

We are conscious of the effect that COVID-19 has had on units and we are also appreciative of the efforts made by all units and members to play their part in ensuring a safe way of life for all in society.

From 20th September Comhaltas units can return to organised indoor classes. It is imperative that guidelines and protocols are adhered to so as to ensure the safe resumption of music classes for all concerned.

From 20th September (<https://www.gov.ie>)

Organised indoor group activities

Organised indoor group activities (sports, arts, culture, dance classes) can take place with capacity limits of 100 people (with appropriate protective measures) where all patrons are immune (fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within previous 6 months), or accompanied minors (under 18).

Where patrons have mixed immunity status, pods of up to 6 participants will be permitted (excluding adult leaders/teachers).

Multiple pods will be permissible subject to protective measures.

Number of pods will have regard to the size of venue and substantial social distance between individual pods.

With this in mind please be advised of the following guidelines for indoor music classes:

- Comhaltas classes can resume from 20th September with capacity limits of 100 people (with appropriate protective measures) where all patrons are immune (fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within previous 6 months), or accompanied minors (under 18).

- Where patrons have mixed immunity status, pods of up to 6 participants will be permitted (excluding adult leaders/teachers).
- Multiple pods will be permissible subject to protective measures.
- Number of pods will have regard to the size of venue and substantial social distance between individual pods.
- The maximum size for a music class should be calculated having regard to the space available. It should be based on ensuring that at least 2 metre social distancing can be maintained with adequate ventilation, and take account of any other capacity restrictions, which may pertain in accordance with child protection or fire safety requirements.
- Covid -19 Guidelines for Comhaltas Units & Activities should be consulted and adhered to when recommencing music classes.
- Identify the Covid Supervisors appointed by your branch.
- Complete the Covid-19 Declaration (one for each person intending to attend Comhaltas activities) and submit it/them to a Covid Supervisor before the initial return to Comhaltas activities. This document will be retained by the branch and be fully compliant with all GDPR guidelines.
- Provide sanitising stations on entry and exit points to the facility and encourage the use of these.
- All tutors and volunteers are to wear face coverings in line with HSE guidelines.
- Have a 15 minute interval between classes (HSE Guideline), to allow for ventilation and cleaning requirements. This will also reduce the occurrence of students overlapping and congestion points within the facility.
- Ensure that rooms are adequately ventilated. This must also be considered when allowing for numbers attending a class. Poor ventilation in crowded indoor spaces is associated with increased risk of COVID-19 transmission; ensuring adequate and appropriate ventilation may mitigate some of this risk. In facilities that rely on natural ventilation (i.e. opening windows), the following additional suggestions are made:
 - Open windows as much as possible during class time, weather and comfort permitting.
 - Use an indoor air quality meter to monitor CO2 levels, and ventilate the room when indicated.
 - [Click link for information on Ventilation in facilities.](#)

- Students to arrive no more than 5 minutes prior to an activity and leave immediately after the activity.
- Avoid or reduce physical contact to a minimum.
- Face masks must be worn in compliance with HSE guidelines.
- The use of screens is advisable particularly with wind instruments.
- Parents or guardians not directly involved with classes are not permitted to attend or observe the activity. They should wear face coverings when attending the facility when dropping off and collecting students.

We ask that all units resuming indoor classes do so in the safest possible manner and only with adherence to all safety measures and guidelines.

**PLEASE REFER TO COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR
COMHALTAS UNITS & ACTIVITIES**