

COVID-19 risk assessment on 25 Feb 2021

Person to person risk of contact:

There is a high person to person contact risk, however, there are also well understood and research supported ways to reduce this risk. However, this risk can never be zero if there is to be personal contact. Where this is to occur it needs to be where there are no other suitable alternatives, in a controlled environment, for the minimum time. Time between these contacts must allow for suitable procedures to minimise any potential tracking to any other person not present in the contact bubble.

Person to surface risk of contact:

While it has been proven that COVID-19 contamination can remain on surfaces for up to 72 hours it has also been proven that the volume of contaminant needed in one area for this to actually pose significant risk to humans is many times what is actually seen in low contamination areas. Obviously, surfaces still pose a very high risk the more COVID-19 contaminants that are present in the environment. A number of surface disinfectants have now been proven to kill these active viruses and are very effective on non-porous surfaces.

Person to fabric risk of contact:

There is little scientifically proven evidence of the contact risk through fabrics of COVID-19 at this time. There is a paper that suggests that this could be quite high in similar situations to the surface findings above and can be effectively killed by high temperature washing. However, this paper is still not accepted to a scientific journal. However, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Dance costumes, with their bling and multiple parts have lots of areas for contact contamination and are often very hard, if not impossible, to wash at any temperature. Some fabrics can be washed or even sprayed with suitable disinfectants but cross contamination must be considered within this area as potentially high risk until proven otherwise.

Thus at this time Coalface Costumes will be doing the following **at a minimum** to continue to try to limit the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring the highest standards of costuming are maintained:

- 1) The number of direct contact fittings per costume will be decreasing.
 - a. Refits: Where before refits would involve two face to face meetings, at least one will become a video fitting. Where there are no complicating factors this may be both
 - b. New custom costumes: At least one and, if not complex, two fittings will be video.
 - c. New stock costumes: If a second fitting is required this will be by video.We ask that fittings be attended by the smallest number of persons possible. The dancer, the payee and a single design person if required. Any dancer under the age of 16 will still be required to have a responsible adult present.
- 2) Where possible multiple fittings will be done, one after another, with suitable time for decontamination, in suitable environments to decrease traveling and contamination by chains. This means the number of house visits we will be carrying out will decrease and the number of dance school visits where there are less soft furnishings will increase. We will provide, and carry out, the suitable tools and procedures for this decontamination and airing process between each of these fittings.
- 3) At all fittings we will wear a mask and nitrile gloves and an outer layer of clothing. Hair will be tied back. Tools used will be minimal or easy to be decontaminated. We will change the mask, gloves and outer clothing layers between fittings and store them safely for suitable decontamination/disposal processes which I will carry out. We ask that dancers wear a clean leotard and tights or dance T-shirt and tights/shorts to the fitting with long sleeves

being preferential. Best fit will be provided by the tightest fitting clothing. If dancers are likely to be wearing certain underwear under the costume in question (e.g. dance belt, bra, etc) please ensure it is worn to the fitting. Where possible we ask all attendees to wear a mask and to reduce the number of bags and baggage entering the consultation environment. Also, where possible, we ask attendees to not come to a consultation having recently been in a significant contamination risk area such as a shopping centre. Spaces to store bags and other bits will be provided and cleaned between sessions.

- 4) Stock costumes will only be tried on over clean clothing and care will be taken to reduce the contact between item and skin. Once a stock item has been tried on it will be quarantined for 72 hours. This may mean that a dancer is only able to try on one costume to check size depending on the rest of the fittings to come. All stock tutus will be able to be viewed but may not be able to be touched. Through prior discussions we will endeavour to ensure that expectations are met and best fit items both in size and design are reserved for those fittings, however this may mean us not allowing the full range of possible costumes to be tried on as before or the full range of fabrics and notions to be handled in the same way.
- 5) I have, once again, considered the posting of costumes and found I cannot, in all good faith, be 100% sure of the certainty of any carrier of safe and correct delivery with any packaging. Thus direct drop offs and hand overs will still occur. This will, if not accompanied by a fitting, involve a member of the team meeting up in the same location to practice non-contact handing over of the costume(s). Where this is a public location we will comply with any requirements of that location for PPE and ask the other person to do the same. Either side of this meeting, 72 hour quarantine procedures of the costumes and containers will be carried out and we would ask that this also happen by the client where possible. If any surfaces are wipe-clean, we will also wipe with disinfectant when entering in or exiting from this quarantine environment. Hand-over locations and times will be chosen to best minimise travel distances and contamination risks to all parties.

All the above will need increasing cooperation and good will on all sides and from all parties. We are in a situation where nothing is certain; timelines are not certain, virus impact is not certain, virus behaviour is not certain. Understandings and plans are, at best, fluid. In order for this to work we must ask that you, as our clients or potential clients be as open and honest with us as we will be with you. As ever we aim to be completely confidential with our practices, to never discuss the specifics and situations around any commission or potential commission with any outside party unless with the express permission of the commissioner so please, be honest with us, so we can provide you the best service possible.

Our contracts remain final with regards to costs and deliverables and will be issued in the assurance that the items can be delivered by us but we also understand that certainty is the last thing we have right now. While, with timely identification of changing needs by the client, we may be able to come to the delivery of an appropriate costume in an appropriate time frame, we will not be able to make all situations work to the satisfaction of all parties. As ever, we can only apologise if this causes problems at this time.