

RIAM

Royal Irish
Academy of Music

Covid-19 3rd and 4th Level Student Information

Safely Accessing your Music Education and the Safe Return to on-site activity

A Safe Return to on-site further and higher education and research.

- ▶ On 29 April 2021, the government made a commitment to a significant increase in on-site further education and training, higher education and research from the beginning of this Academic year, September 2021.
- ▶ Higher and further education and training, and research are essential activities, and so the plan for 2021 to 2022 is for mainly on-site activity for all students, learners, and staff.
- ▶ Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a framework which will allow for a safe return for all is being developed. The framework allows institutions to adapt to changing circumstances and their own infrastructure situation.
- ▶ Following the continued success of the ongoing vaccination rollout programme we are proceeding on the basis that greater resumption of on-site activity is possible, while ensuring that overall numbers attending on-site are monitored and controlled.

The following will take place in person from September:

- ▶ One to one and chamber music teaching and rehearsal
- ▶ Pre-selected academic classes and tutorials
- ▶ Performance classes
- ▶ Practice facilities
- ▶ Orchestral, opera and large vocal ensemble rehearsals
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Access to kitchen facilities, instrument storage and lockers.

All in accordance with Public Health Advice and providing for the needs of individual staff and students where necessary.

Department of Further and Higher Education and Research, Innovation and Science Objectives:

- ▶ support ongoing public health requirements
- ▶ support the ongoing needs of students, learners and staff
- ▶ retain some scope for online teaching and scope for continuity for students and learners who cannot attend in person for certified health reasons
- ▶ ensure coherence and consistency in planning and the implementation of public health guidance across the sector
- ▶ support autonomy in the work of institutions and providers in the development of their plans

Background

- ▶ The virus which causes COVID-19 is called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and belongs to the broad family of viruses known as coronaviruses
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic has implications for all educational institutions as it can present a health risk to students and staff.
- ▶ A combination of good personal hygiene and management of social distancing can protect from infection.
- ▶ The RIAM has implemented the following safety measures and plans to return to in-person and onsite learning and research in line with public health guidelines and guidelines published by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science which can be found at the following link:
- ▶ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/bcd91-a-safe-return-to-on-site-further-and-higher-education-and-research/>

RIAM Supports to Assist you in your Safe Return to Education

- ▶ The RIAM will be arranging for regular cleaning of RIAM teaching locations.
- ▶ Particular attention will be paid to high contact points such as door handles, switches, rails and taps.
- ▶ All rooms will be provided with cleaning wipes and we would ask all students to spot clean handles and ventilate rooms before and after they use them.
- ▶ Equipment should not be shared by students, (eg laptops, musical instruments except for pianos, which can be cleaned with supplies provided - see later slide)

RIAM Supports to Assist you in your Safe Return to Education

- ▶ The RIAM has signage displayed outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene. They are displayed in prominent areas such as offices, corridors, teaching rooms and toilets.
- ▶ Students are requested to wear a facemask at all times unless performing when it is not possible to do so, however, social distancing must be adhered to. If you are unable to wear a facemask for a medical or sensory reason, please make this known to your teacher. Students should carry their own facemask with them at all times. Visors/plastics shields are not recommended as a suitable alternative unless you cannot wear a facemask for medical reasons

RIAM Safety Measures

- ▶ On entering the building students should stop and use the hand sanitiser which will be positioned in the reception area. There will also be hand sanitisers available in fixed locations on each floor.
- ▶ There is a student canteen for use in the basement of No 36 Westland Row. Cleaning wipes will be available for use and please practice responsible social distancing when using the facilities.
- ▶ Lockers are available in the library at No 40 (please email ruthmeehan@riam.ie to request a locker, they will be issued on a first come first served basis).
- ▶ Hand soap, paper towels and antibacterial wipes are provided and should be used. Instrument storage is available in the library at No 40 - guidelines have been issued.

RIAM Safety Measures

- ▶ There is to be no congregating or waiting in the reception area of the building
- ▶ We encourage all students to thoroughly wash their hands before and after each lesson. Please view the following video on correct handwashing technique <https://youtu.be/d914EnpU4Fo>
- ▶ Do not wear disposable gloves instead of washing your hand as the virus gets on them in the same way it gets on your hands and your hands can get contaminated when you take them off
- ▶ If you become unwell or have a temperature, or a member of your household is awaiting Covid-19 test results please do not attend the RIAM and notify the **3rd and 4th level office** of the RIAM immediately by emailing margaretdorley@riam.ie or phoning reception on 01-6325300. Your teacher can conduct a class via Zoom at the usual time, in the case of one to one lessons, if notification of at least 24 hours is given. Details of when you need to restrict your movements can be found on the HSE website and should be strictly adhered to.
- ▶ If you become unwell during a lesson, please contact a member of the first aid response team, Ruth Meehan, Ben Fox or Maurice Slater by asking your teacher to do so or by contacting reception. You will be brought to an isolation area where your safe exit from the building will be arranged. Percussion room 3 has been identified as the isolation area.

RIAM Safety Measures

- ▶ If you have travelled abroad recently please make sure you have followed all the current guidelines which can be found at [gov.ie/covid-19-travel-advice](https://www.gov.ie/covid-19-travel-advice). Your teacher can conduct a class via Zoom at the usual time, in the case of one-to-one lessons, if notification of at least 24 hours is given.
- ▶ If you have a query for the 3rd and 4th Level Office we would ask that in the first instance you contact them by email or by phone (01 6325312).

Advice Specific to the Use of Pianos in the RIAM

Following advice from our Piano Technician and in line with the protocols currently in place with Steinway UK and the Royal Academy of Music in London, teachers and students should use the following system:

- ▶ Students and teachers should wash their hands thoroughly with warm soapy water for a minimum of 20 seconds immediately before and after using the pianos. Hands should be thoroughly dried and hand sanitiser used.
- ▶ Keyboards may be cleaned using the wipes which will be provided in each room, these are specialist wipes and will be labelled for piano use and should be used on piano keys only. They are not for use on hands or other surfaces. Caps should be replaced tightly after use and under no circumstances should they be removed from the teaching rooms. Please contact ruthmeehan@riam.ie if you wish to review the Safety Data Sheets for the wipes.

Supports for Students

- ▶ For health and safety concerns, Ruth Meehan ruthmeehan@riam.ie
- ▶ For administration queries, Margaret Chorley margaretdchorley@riam.ie
- ▶ For instrument/voice queries, your Head of Faculty
- ▶ For confidential counselling services, info@clanwilliam.ie or virginiakerr@riam.ie
- ▶ For mentoring support, paulroe@riam.ie
- ▶ For informal advice and support, please check the most up to date names and contacts of the student support leaders which will be available from the Tertiary Office.

CBS Westland Row - Specific Information

- ▶ **There will be no waiting areas available and face coverings should be worn in public areas at all times and where it is not possible to maintain social distance. If you become unwell during your lesson, please contact the porter or ask your teacher to contact the porter, who will bring you safely to an isolation area before ensuring you can safely leave the building.**

MoLi- Specific information

- ▶ **If you become unwell during your lesson, please contact the shift manager or ask your teacher to contact them, who will bring you safely to an isolation area before leaving the building. The Shift Manager carries a radio and a mobile phone (085 228 7452) and can be contacted at any time**

Symptoms of Covid-19

- ▶ Infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild to severe, and, in some cases, can be fatal
- ▶ They can be similar to the symptoms of cold and flu
- ▶ The time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms (incubation period) is from five to six days
- ▶ Common symptoms of coronavirus include:
 - ▶ •A fever (high temperature -38 degrees Celsius or above).
 - ▶ •A cough -this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.
 - ▶ •Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - ▶ •Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- ▶ Some people infected with the virus experience no symptoms at all (asymptomatic)

How the Virus Spreads

- ▶ **Infectious Agent: Coronavirus**
- ▶ **Reservoir:** the source of the infectious agent: People
- ▶ **Portal of exit: Respiratory Droplets**
- ▶ For contamination to happen, the biological agent has to get out of the reservoir or has to be accessible. Respiratory droplets.
- ▶ **Mode of transmission:**
 - ▶ Direct (inhalation or body to body contact),
 - ▶ Indirect (Contaminated surface, equipment, etc.)
- ▶ **Portal of entry: Inhalation, Nose, Mouth or Eyes**
- ▶ **Potential host: Student, Employee at his/her workplace. Visitor, etc.**

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene

- ▶ **Hand Hygiene is the most important control that we must all be aware of**
- ▶ Hands should be washed in soapy water frequently, for a minimum of 20 seconds and thoroughly dried. Hand sanitiser may also be used and similar to hand washing, should be thoroughly applied covering the entire surface of the hands front and back. Employees should wash hands immediately before leaving home for work and upon arrival to work.
- ▶ Students should wash their hands before and after eating and **avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.**
- ▶ Students should practise good respiratory hygiene, that is, when coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue - discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

Physical Distancing

- ▶ It is important to maintain physical distance between yourself and other people, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever
- ▶ A distance of 1 meter will reduce risk by approximately 77%.
- ▶ Teaching rooms and offices have been measured to ensure distancing is possible. Some portable Perspex screens will be available if required.