

Coronavirus COVID-19 – Guidance and Advice

In light of current news reports, please find below a summary of the most recent government advice on the Coronavirus – plus further information related to the New Vic Theatre.

The official risk to the public in the UK of catching coronavirus (COVID-19) has been increased from low to moderate. But it is important to note that the risk to individuals remains low. As per government advice, we are currently operating as normal with a full performance and activity schedule going ahead.

We will continue to review the situation, updating our guidance and advice as and when required.

Information posters are displayed across our foyer and backstage areas.

What are the Symptoms of COVID-19?

The symptoms of COVID-19 include a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath. Having these do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. Further details on symptoms can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions/>

Generally, COVID-19 can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. Usually the symptoms will be mild. Although it was thought that the virus can be spread by an infected person without symptoms, updated information is that people displaying no symptoms are unlikely to infect others. Anyone with the virus needs to stay in isolation away from other people until they have recovered.

Public Health Advice

Government guidance is that the spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 meters or less) with an infected person. The most likely way of transmitting the virus is by an infected person coughing or sneezing or touching a surface or object or hand or a person that has the virus and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

Their advice is for everyone to follow simple hygiene rules to help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading:

- Regularly wash your hands thoroughly with soap and hot water
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available – hand sanitiser will be provided at kitchen points on each floor
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Soap and hot water are available in all toilets onsite, and sanitiser gel and tissues are available across the site to use if you do not have your own. As a matter of course our Housekeeping staff regularly clean surface areas including daily cleaning of ‘touch points’ such as door handles, touch plates, box office counters, glazed doors etc.

What is Self-Isolation?

Government advice is that most people can go to work and other public places as normal. You usually only need to self-isolate (e.g. stay at home and not participate in workshops onsite, attend performances etc) if you have been to specified countries and areas. These include:

- To Hubei province in China, Iran, “special care zone” areas in South Korea in the last 14 days
- To, areas of northern Italy in lockdown between 19 February and 8 March 2020
- To all areas of Italy if returned to the UK on or after 9 March
- To all other of Korea since 19 February
- To other parts of mainland China or South Korea, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days **and have had a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath.**
- To other parts of northern Italy (anywhere north of Pisa, Florence and Rimini), Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Myanmar since 19 February **and have had a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath.**

This advice also applies if you have been in transit through one of the above countries (e.g. changing planes).

If this is the case, you should stay indoors and call NHS 111. You can find out more about self-isolating on the gov website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>

If you have travelled from any other country, then no precautionary measures are required and the advice is to carry on as normal.

Because of COVID-19 I cannot come to a performance or workshop, what do I need to tell the New Vic?

If you cannot come to a performance or workshop, because of COVID-19 (e.g. you need to self-isolate), please let us know as soon as possible.

Attending a performance – please call our box office or email us at tickets@newvictheatre.org.uk. They will discuss the options available to you. We may be able to move your tickets to a different performance, offer an online credit to be used on another show or may offer a refund at our discretion, if you are not able to reschedule.

Please also let us know if you have a table reserved in our restaurant or disabled parking space booked, so we can amend or cancel your booking.

Attending a workshop or other Education, Borderlines or Appetite event – please call the relevant department who will deal with your enquiry. Telephone 01782 717954.

If you feel unwell whilst at the New Vic and you've recently returned from an infected area

If you this applies to you, or you become aware of someone who this applies to you or that person should,

- Try to get at least 2 meters away from other people
- Tell someone immediately – they will let a qualified first aider know

- Go to a room or area behind a closed door such as our Youth room through the bar on the first floor (if available) or follow advice from New Vic staff
- Open a window for ventilation (if possible), but otherwise avoid touching anything
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue if necessary and put it in a bin, or if they do not have tissues, cough and sneeze into the crook of the elbow
- Use a separate bathroom from others, if possible

You or they should use their own mobile to call:

- For NHS advice: 111
- For an ambulance, if seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk: 999

You or they need to let the operator know the symptoms and the country you or they have returned from in the last 14 days.

What if someone with COVID-19 comes into the New Vic?

We would not necessarily have to close the building. If this was the case, the local Public Health England (PHE) health protection team would get in contact to discuss the situation, identify people who have been in contact with the affected person, carry out a risk assessment and advise on any actions or precautions to take.

Any Other Concerns

If you have any concerns or queries, please speak to our box office (audiences) or organising department (Projects and Events).

There is also a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions on the NHS website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions/>