SUMMARY OF CHANGES PAC AUSTRALIA GUIDE TO COVID-SAFE THEATRES Issued 6 August, 2020



The changes included in the guideline revision "First Revision – July 2020" are outlined below:

• Page 1 - Introduction. On the advice of the epidemiologist, new language:

This document also does not take audience sentiment into account. For example, temperature testing upon entry may increase the likelihood of patrons attending a performance, or conversely, may dissuade attendance. Regardless, with the health and safety of all persons visiting or working in your venue at the forefront, inducing a sense of comfort in attendance should not result in any change of behaviour or a relaxed approach to observing physical distancing and other control measures in place.

Footnote: Temperature testing is not a universal requirement and will be at the individual organisations' discretion (unless directly advised by local authorities).

Page 2 – Tranmission of COVID-19. Addition:

There is also new evidence suggesting the virus may be spread by airborne transmission as well as faecal transmission.

• Page 4 – Duty of Care. Addition:

Workers may be asked to complete the healthdirect Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptom Checker (or other self-assessment tool) prior to coming to work.

• Page 6 – Front of House, General. Addition:

The venue has a duty of care to ensure the relevant social distancing measures are in place and front of house staff may be required to assist patrons with social distancing.

• Each department (Front of House, Back of House, Food & Beverage, Ticketing and Office). Removed:

"If staff are feeling well, there is no need to use face masks." Addition:

"Anyone who feels unwell should not attend work and seek medical advice if required."

• Page 13 – Changed the language about physical distancing must not create other hazards to include:

Where it is not practicable to maintain physical distancing between workers, implement appropriate control measures such as the use of PPE, face shields, screens etc.

• All departments:

Removed reference to "If staff are feeling well, there is no need to use face masks".

• Social Distancing and Capacity Limits: Removed all references to the 100 capacity limit, which was originally used in Step 3 of the three-stage framework for lifting restrictions, until it was replaced by the square metre rules only.

Continued.

• Page 15 – Advance Communication. Addition:

On the day of the performance, venues may request the patrons complete the healthdirect Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptom Checker (or other self-assessment tool) prior to attending the venue.

• **Page 18** – New language about staff members who have been in contact with a suspected COVID-19 case:

"Staff members who have been in close contact with a person who tests positive, but are not presently symptomatic, should quarantine for 14 days and seek medical advice and testing."

- Page 18 Changed "a medical certificate" to "medical clearance"
 Staff members who have a suspected or diagnosed case of COVID-19 must provide medical clearance before returning to work.
- New resources:
 - $\circ \quad \text{Touring Guidelines}$
 - o Guidelines for Auditions, Performances and Rehearsals

END.