Republic of Latvia

Order of the Minister for Culture No. 2.5-1-62

Adopted 12 May 2020

**Regarding the Ensuring of Social Distancing at Venues for Cultural Events**

*Issued pursuant to*

*Paragraph 9.11 of Cabinet Regulation No. 241 of 29 April 2003, By-law of the Ministry of Culture*

1. In accordance with Sub-paragraphs 4.5.25 and 4.53.1 of Cabinet Order No. 103 of 12 March 2020, Regarding the Declaration of Emergency Situation:

1.1. Upon organising public cultural events (according to the definition specified in the Law on Safety of Public Entertainment and Festivity Events), the venue for cultural events shall ensure implementation of such events in accordance with the restrictions specified by the Cabinet in relation to public events, including:

1.1.1. shall ensure that simultaneously there are not more than 25 persons at the event;

1.1.2. shall ensure that the duration of the event does not exceed three hours, including the arrival and departure of visitors if the event takes place indoors. To the extent possible, the event is planned so as to avoid the need to organise breaks;

1.1.3. services that are not directly related to the event, including public catering services, shall not be provided during the event;

1.1.4. shall ensure maintenance of two-metre distance between the visitors, performing artists, employees of the venue and the service staff of the event, except for the cases where the persons live in the same household, and shall prevent crowding of persons at the entrance, exit, and in other premises;

1.1.5. shall ensure that persons who are not directly involved in ensuring the course of the event are not at the venue for cultural events during the public event.

1.2. When there is no public event taking place in the venue for cultural events, the venue can receive visitors, ensuring that two-metre distance is maintained between the visitors, the employees, and between the visitors and employees, except where the persons live in the same household.

1.3. The venue for cultural events shall determine the maximum number of visitors that can be at the venue simultaneously when no public event is taking place therein, ensuring that in the venue there is not more than one visitor per 4 m2 of the area of publicly accessible premises of the venue at the same time, however not more than:

1.3.1. 25 visitors in the venues with the area of public spaces of up to 1000 m2;

1.3.2. 50 visitors in the venues with the area of public spaces of more than 1000 m2.

1.4. Procedures for organising the rehearsal process of professional performing arts (music, dance, and theatre) at the venue for cultural events shall be determined by the Order of the Minister for Culture regarding the ensuring of social distancing in the rehearsal process of professional performing arts.

1.5. The venue for cultural events shall create a list of the persons participating in ensuring each public event, including shall compile contact information of persons in conformity with the principles determined for the personal data processing, and shall store such lists for at least three weeks after the event.

1.6. For the demonstration of artistic content, the venue for cultural events shall ensure a stage and technical solutions related to the demonstration of content that allow to maintain a two-metre distance between the performing artists.

1.7. The venue for cultural events shall ensure separate premises or an area for the performing artists where to stay before and after the public event, ensuring that in such premises or area there is not more than one performing artist per 4 m2 at the same time, provided that the possibility to maintain a two-metre distance between persons is ensured and crowding at the entrance, exit, and in other premises is prevented.

1.8. The venue for cultural events shall organise public events so that the performing artists and service staff involved in different events would not simultaneously be in the room where the event takes place and also in other premises.

1.9. The venue for cultural events shall, in visible places (preferably at the entrance in the building or territory), publicly display information on the maximum number of persons that can be at the venue at the same time outside the hours of public events.

1.10. The venue for cultural events shall ensure ongoing control of the number of visitors at the venue. Where necessary, the venue for cultural events shall consider the possibility to organise the visit to the venue outside the hours of events by appointments, determining the maximum number of visitors per hour.

1.11. The venue for cultural events shall ensure the planning and control of the flow of persons in order to prevent crowding of persons and to ensure maintenance of two-metre distance, including:

1.11.1. to the extent possible, shall use separate entrances and exits for the organisation of the flow of visitors;

1.11.2. shall remove any obstacles that could restrict entrances or exits and impede the flow of persons;

1.11.3. shall, in the places visible to visitors, place clearly legible instructions for the need to be socially responsible and to maintain a two-metre distance;

1.11.4. to the extent possible, shall mark the places for maintaining a two-metre distance at ticket offices and in other places where the gathering of persons is possible.

1.12. The venue for cultural events shall place announcements publicly (including on the website of the venue of cultural events, social media, at the venue of cultural events) inviting the visitors to evaluate their health condition and to not attend the venue for cultural events and the events taking place therein if the person has signs of respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath), and also if the person has an obligation to be in self-isolation, home quarantine or comply with conditions of strict isolation.

1.13. The venue for cultural events shall ensure that persons (visitors, employees of the venue, performing artists, service staff) with signs of respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath) are not present in such venue. The venue for cultural events has the right to prohibit persons with signs of respiratory infection from entering the venue and to invite them to leave the venue, recommending them to go home and contact their general practitioner.

1.14. The venue for cultural events shall, to the extent possible, sell tickets remotely. The venue for cultural events shall invite the visitors to pay for tickets and other purchases using payment cards, if such possibility is ensured at the venue, limiting cash payments to the extent possible.

1.15. The venue for cultural events shall regularly inform visitors of the need to maintain a two-metre distance and other conditions in relation to the visit of the venue or events taking place therein by playing audio announcements in the Latvian language or by an employee of the venue informing the visitors. Where necessary, the information also may be provided in foreign languages.

1.16. The venue for cultural events shall ensure that the visitors, employees of the venue, performing artists, and service staff have the possibility to upkeep hand hygiene (washing hands with soap under running water and hygienic means for hand drying or using hand sanitisers (70 % ethanol solution or another effective hand sanitiser)).

1.17. The venue for cultural events shall place a clearly legible information with the reminder of the compliance with the requirements of hygiene at the premises, including in bathrooms:

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| • Wash your hands often and thoroughly with water and soap, especially after visiting public spaces, before eating, before touching your face, after using the bathroom.  • If hands cannot be washed, sanitise your hands using hand sanitisers containing alcohol.  • Remember that touch screen devices, such as telephone surfaces, can be contaminated with viruses and bacteria, therefore it necessary to clean them regularly with disinfectants containing alcohol.  • Don’t touch your face (eyes, nose, and mouth) with unwashed hands. |

1.18. The venue for cultural events shall ensure that the employees of the venue, performing artists, and service staff use only those devices, instruments and other equipment which is transferred for their use, and ensure their transfer from one person to another by disinfecting them in advance by appropriate means.

1.19. The venue for cultural events shall clean the premises after each public event or as regularly as possible if no events take place there, particularly thoroughly cleaning all common use surfaces (for example, door handles, table surfaces, armrests, handrails, surfaces in bathrooms) by using appropriate disinfectants (the recommended disinfectants are 70 % ethanol solution or 0.5 % sodium hypochlorite solution). Surfaces that are touched by a large number of visitors should be cleaned several times a day. More detailed information on the cleaning of premises is available on the website of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

1.20. The venue for cultural events shall, to the extent possible, perform regular ventilation of premises by opening the windows or using effective mechanical ventilation.

1.21. If public catering services are provided in the premises or the territory of the venue for cultural events, the service provider shall be responsible for complying with the conditions laid down in the Order of the Minister for Economics No. 1-6.1/2020/55 of 30 March 2020, Regarding the Ensuring of Social Distancing at Public Catering Facilities. Public catering services may not be provided during a public event.

1.22. If trade is performed in the premises or the territory of the venue for cultural events, it shall be implemented by complying with the conditions laid down in the Order of the Minister for Economics No. 1-6.1/2020/51 of 30 March 2020, Regarding the Ensuring of Social Distancing at Sales Points. Trade may not be performed during a public event.

1.23. The venue for cultural events shall organise the work so that the employees thereof, performing artists and service staff who are not directly involved in the servicing of visitors of the venue or ensuring of the event would not, without the need, be in the public area of the venue together with the visitors of the event.

1.24. The venue for cultural events shall ensure that employees, performing artists, and service staff who are subject to the conditions of self-isolation, quarantine or isolation in accordance with Sub-paragraph 4.12 of Cabinet Regulation No. 103 of 12 March 2020, Regarding the Declaration of Emergency Situation, are not present at the venue for cultural events.

1.25. The competence of the management of the venue for cultural events includes the evaluation of the usefulness of the use of face masks and other personal protective equipment, complying with the conditions for the proper use and disposal thereof, and also the necessity to determine compliance with other additional safety measures.

2. The Order shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the official gazette *Latvijas Vēstnesis*.

3. This Order shall be published in the official gazette *Latvijas Vēstnesis*.

Minister for Culture N. Puntulis