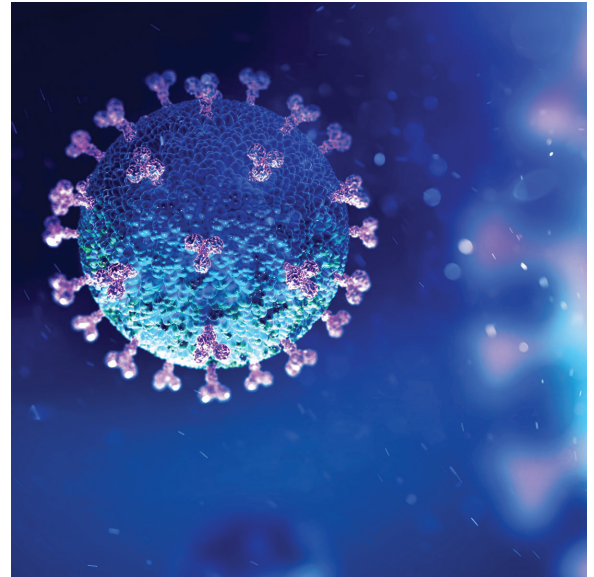


The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has impacted our world in a unprecedented way. Social distancing has changed the historic culture of how churches gather and minister to congregants and the community. The music and arts ministry is a significant element to worship services, comprised of multiple to mass people closely gathered in praise teams, choirs and instrumental talents banded together to create a joyful noise. In light of the new normal we all are facing, how does the music ministry effectively minister in a space that has thrived on the essence of being present together in one physical place?

The Balm In Gilead, Inc. has devised an advisory information fact sheet to offer support on how the music and arts ministry may adjust to the new normal, keep everyone safe and continue serving congregants, communities and the world with the gift of music and art. Please consider the listed suggestions and incorporate them into your plans as you move forward with your ministries.



Key Coronavirus Guidelines

- Observe social distancing guidelines by maintaining a 6ft space between other musicians.
- Proper hand cleansing is the best way to prevent all kinds of infection and germs.
- If you or another fellow musician is experiencing any symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19), please abide by the CDC guidelines and self quarantine for 14 days.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth when entering and exiting the sanctuary.



Choir Performances

- Rotate smaller groups of singers to ensure that everyone has a chance to participate.
- Ministers of Music and Choir Directors should do a needs assessment with the Pastor and Church Leadership to identify exactly what the music needs of the church are to ensure a quality worship experience.
- Consider utilizing solos at any given time to reduce the number of people on a stage, pulpit, or choir stand.



Choir & Musicians Rehearsals



- Utilize technology as a means to teach and learn music
- Ministers of Music and Choir Directors should consider sending music virtually, so that singers and musicians can learn their parts while practicing safe distancing.
- Choose a virtual platform that works for all choir members; this may mean having to use several different platforms to reach all members.
- Make an investment in digital music ministry tools, such as Soundtrap and GarageBand, that allows for a full band sound effect with fewer "live" band members.

Proper Microphone Sanitation

- Wireless microphones would be a great investment during this time, because the spread of germs can be greatly reduced by singers using individual microphones.
- If microphones are shared they should be disinfected after each service. A microphone sanitizer or light alcohol spray are suitable disinfectant.
- Microphones are delicate electronic devices, so cleaning them can be complicated. Many microphones have removable headbaskets (the metal mesh domes at the end of the mics). If those can be loosened from the mic, they can be gently cleaned with a tooth brush or swab, or even soaked in a solution of water and mild soap. The foam liners inside the headbasket can be removed and replaced. Be sure that both of those elements are thoroughly dry before reassembling.

