

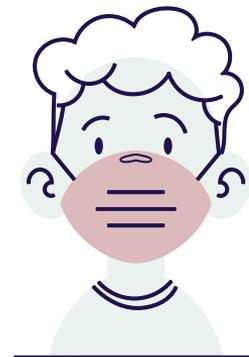
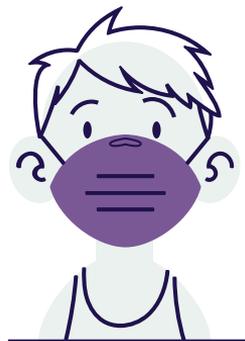


TAIKO COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

REINTEGRATION

AMIDST COVID-19

Considerations for Returning to
Playing/Practicing/Performing in Person



SO, HOW'S IT GOING?

While there are many groups who are still isolating, various regions of North America have initiated the phases of reopening, and you may be considering how your group can join in that movement. Bear in mind, there may be individuals in reopening areas who have mixed feelings about what their local communities are doing.

To that end, this presentation discusses:

1. Determining your **personal comfort level** when assessing reopening participation.
2. Determining your **personal risk level**.
3. Determining the **who-what-where-when-why-how** of opening up practice space doors again.
4. Legal considerations that have arisen due to COVID
5. Other considerations or changes in industry as a result of COVID

DETERMINING YOUR PERSONAL COMFORT LEVEL

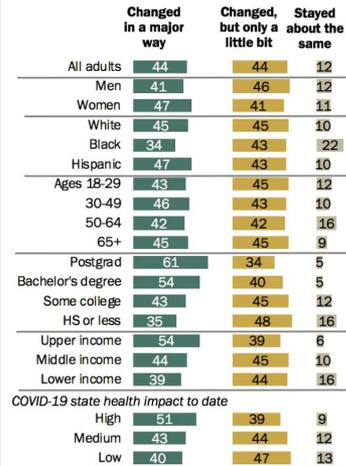
Whether you are a taiko student, teacher, or performer, you have a responsibility to yourself to know what your comfort level is with exposure.

Ask yourself:

- Am I ok to wear a mask? Do I want others to wear masks around me?
- Am I a person at higher risk? Do I live with someone who is considered higher risk?
- How essential is it for me to interact socially right now (for taiko or other reasons)?

More than four-in-ten Americans say their lives have changed in a major way

% saying that, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, their personal life has ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings. COVID-19 state health impact is based on per-capita cases and/or total number of cases. See Appendix for details. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020. "Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The pandemic has drastically changed how we live, work, and play. We cannot make assumptions about how others we socialize with feel about reintegration.

Graphic courtesy of [Pew Research Center](#), 2020

DETERMINING YOUR PERSONAL RISK LEVEL

The risk level we identify for ourselves is a tool to inform others who potentially interact with us. This tool, however, is subjective. For example, you may identify yourself as a 2, but another may view your lifestyle/risk level as a 3.

Part of reintegration for taiko players may involve being comfortable with sharing our risk factors with one another, so that we can all make the most informed choice possible to socialize in person (or not).

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Very Strict 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stays within Container• As a rule, no outside contact• Strict Infection Control Protocols (e.g., immediate disinfecting items brought into home, promptly showering, washing clothing worn outside, etc.) |
| Strict 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaves Container only for essentials• Moderately strict Infection Control Protocols• Strict Etiquette of hand-washing, mask-wearing, physical distancing 100% of the time outside of container• No socializing outside of Container |
| Fairly Strict 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaves Container only for essentials and outdoor exercise• Fairly strict Etiquette, hand-washing masks, & physical distancing 80-99% of time outside of Container• Minimizes appts, shopping, errands• Rarely socializes with others who are not in one's container |
| Somewhat Open 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaves Container to work, shop exercise a few times a week• Etiquette includes hand-washing, masks, physical distancing, 60-79% of time outside of Container• Sometimes socializes with those outside of one's Container• Socializing in groups of 6 or less |
| Moderately Open 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaves container to work, shop, and exercise multiple times a week• Etiquette of hand-washing, masks, physical distancing 20-59% of the time outside of Container• Regularly socializes with those outside of one's Container• May attend gatherings of 6 or more |
| Very Open 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaves Container on a regular basis• Little or no Etiquette regarding hand-washing, mask-wearing, physical distancing• Actively socializes without hand-washing, masks, or distancing etiquette |

Dr. Evelin Dacker, MD wrote an article suggesting the risk levels (0-5) individuals can use to compare personal risk levels. While these may not be comprehensive of unique or regionally specific needs/situations, they provide a thorough starting point for determining and discussing your risk level.

Source: [COVID CARE: A Way Forward to Opening Up Social Circles](#)

Note: This graphic has been adapted by Karen Falkenstrom / Odaiko Sonora for use in their reopening guidelines and differs slightly from that linked in the original article above. Thank you, Karen, for sharing this resource!

DETERMINING A RE-ENTRY STRATEGY

Phase One: Investigate

Review local COVID numbers and new cases.

Identify your State's Reopening policy/plan.

Ask your students/ co-performers if they are at risk.

Survey students/ co-performers to see if they are interested in returning yet.

Phase Two: Design a Re-Entry Strategy

How will scheduling use of space occur?

Who will attend rehearsals?

How will space be disinfected before/after use, and by whom?

What activities, if any, would you consider restricting in the space?

Phase Three: Evaluate/ Get Feedback

Have a virtual meeting with key students/players/ stakeholders to review the plan.

Make any changes as necessary to address concerns and feedback.

Repeat Phase 3 as necessary.

Phase Four: Roll Out Reintegration

Make official announcement that reintegration is happening.

Communicate the research and steps taken to make this decision.

Encourage people to continue to express concerns /feedback about the process.

If you are a teacher, operate a taiko-related business, serve as a group leader, or for any other reason are coordinating opening the doors to a space for others to engage with taiko, developing a solid re-entry strategy will be helpful to mitigate the risks of reopening.

Based on best practices reported to TCA Staff by over twenty arts organizations and taiko groups, here is a general model you may consider as you develop your re-entry strategy.

It is important to note that ongoing feedback and evaluation at each phase is critical to making a successful reintegration. This may result in cycling through a phase multiple times before feeling comfortable to proceed further.

BONUS CONTENT! Safely Disinfecting Taiko

Preserving the health of our instruments is just as important as maintaining our own health. With that in mind, consider the following:

- Who will touch instruments? How often?
- Where will they be touched – in a designated/taped-off area, or more generalized?
- Will those moving the drums be gloved?
- When drums are moved, who moved them and their stands? How are you keeping track?
- How will they be disinfected and how often?
 - Cleaning and disinfecting products are harsh and can cause unnecessary damage to hides and wood; however, disinfecting drums and bachi will be a necessity for most groups.
 - The recommendation to clean drums is as follows:
 - With a diluted bleach/water solution*, spray a soft rag.
 - Use a rag to clean all surfaces. Place the rag in a bin to not be reused (or not used until the rag itself is cleaned again).
 - With a clean paper towel, dry clean the area after 30 seconds.
 - For more details on use of this cleaning, check out this informational Zoom session about reintegration in the **From the Taiko Community** section of our COVID resources:
<https://taikocommunityalliance.org/covid-19-resources/>

*The use of Bleach, alcohol, and other disinfectants can be harsh to natural materials like skins and wood. Please use as sparingly and as safely as possible based on your needs.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Most groups already carry some sort of liability waiver as part of their operations/performances. With the advent of COVID, however, it would also be good to include or create a separate liability waiver related to pathogens and illness.

These waivers can be very short and direct (less than a page), or a thorough legal document (the longest one we found for another arts organization was 20 pages in length!). Each group is different, and each group's needs are different too - do your homework and seek out advice from legal experts to find the right fit for you.

Your local and state legislation may also change its requirements for businesses and social gatherings - monitor the news most relevant to your groups.

The American Society for Media Photographers shared out an example template of a COVID liability waiver:

<https://www.asmp.org/wp-content/uploads/ASMP-COVID-Liability-Release-Client.pdf>

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Things TCA is monitoring because we predict shifts in these areas....

Insurance Needs

Increased Focus on
Health & Wellness in
Groups

Practice Spaces
& Groups

Clients may demand
increased insurance
coverages in 2021

Health & Safety

Mindfulness

Business/Loss Of

Property/Taiko

Mental Health/Anxiety
may increase amongst
individuals in groups

How can CDC
guidelines better
inform our safety
practices in taiko?

Being good (taiko)
citizens

Questions?

We realize that this is a generalized overview of information. If we did not discuss a topic you are still seeking advice in, please contact TCA Program Manager Kristina McGaha (kristina@taikocommunityalliance.org) for more information and resources.

Answers?

Maybe you have had success in your own group with a Best Practice you would like to share? We are currently seeking more cases to feature on our COVID resources page for the community.

Please contact TCA Program Manager Kristina McGaha (kristina@taikocommunityalliance.org) for ways you can help uplift others by sharing your knowledge on the website.