



# Saskatchewan Drama Association COVID-19 Response

October 2020

Saskatchewan Drama Association is committed to putting our students and adult members first. SDA's Board of Directors and Staff wanted to let you know the steps we are taking to ensure everyone's safety while providing quality drama programming through Saskatchewan. As you know, COVID -19 is officially listed as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and we have still much to learn and understand about it.

Please note: This document reflects our best knowledge at the time of writing and will be updated to incorporate new information and guidelines as we become aware of them. Saskatchewan Drama Association abides by the plans in place by the Saskatchewan Government:

Safe School Plan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/safe-schools-plan>

Movie and Live Theatre Guidelines: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines/movie-and-live-theatre-guidelines>

As well, we recognize the Back to School and Extra Curricular Activities Plans in place for each Saskatchewan School Division and their individual needs and resources.

Following you will find our latest thinking on how SDA will adapt its practices to ensure that we continue to deliver drama programming, while also making decisions in a thoughtful manner that prioritizes the safety of all. Of course, SDA will continue to monitor new COVID-19 information and we will amend and adjust these guidelines at regular intervals as the situation develops. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

During this time, SDA wants to emphasize:

1. **Communication** is very important. Please inform SDA of how we can be of assistance any way during these turbulent times.
2. We want to build increasing readiness and adoption of **virtual technologies** to better enable remote work, i.e., performances, workshops, festivals, and other programs. We are currently working to make sure that we have the right infrastructure, knowledge and best practices in place to ensure our success and continuity of operations.
3. We know that **social distancing** is important for the safe interaction of individuals. SDA's position is to minimize these issues that may arise by leaning into virtual interaction.

As you know SDA's Regional, Middle Years, and Provincial Drama Festivals were cancelled in the Spring of 2020. Currently, SDA is evaluating its usual Fall Regional Drama Festival preparation. This is further complicated because Regionals Directors did not meet to choose dates and locations for their festival in 2021. To date, we have received considerable interest in Regional Festival that would take place in March and April 2021, with some regions confirming dates and locations for Regional Festival.

SDA is aware that Festivals will not be 'business as usual' this year. Options SDA must consider are:

1. Regional Festivals may be scheduled as close to 'normal' as possible, i.e., in person live performances.
2. Regional Festivals may be scheduled entirely as live stream performances (not a virtual performance), thus eliminating the need to travel, if the host school is able to accommodate live streaming.
3. Regional Festival may be scheduled, where those that can attend will and those who can't attend will live stream their production (not a virtual performance) to the host facility, if the host school is able to accommodate live streaming.
4. Cancel Regional Festivals for the 2021 season.

Over the coming months it will become apparent which option will prevail.

We encourage you to complete an 'Intent to Enter Festival' form and an 'Adult Membership Application' as soon as possible in order for SDA to determine the viability of our Regional Festivals 2021. The Deadline for entering regional festival has been extended to November 30, 2020.

SDA has planned some Virtual Drama Programs for the upcoming program year. All of these programs may form part of your English Language, Drama, and Arts Education curriculum classes and well as extra-curricular.

1. **Competitive Virtual Theatre Festival.** Information to be available in October. This will provide groups the ability to continue to perform dramatic work.
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> SDA and SMFA Spoken Word E-Festival** – We are hosting two more of these E-Festivals in the upcoming year. Information will be available in October.
3. **Playwriting E-Festival** – This will involve the writing of plays and the performance of a scene from the play and is currently in the planning stage.
4. **Virtual Workshop** – SDA suggests that you complete a 'New Initiative Grant' or 'Diversity Grant' application that is available on SDA's website. This year all workshops will be held virtually. Any member\*\* can apply for a workshop to be held as a curricular or extracurricular activity. These are available on a first come, first served basis.
5. **Mary Ellen Burgess Library** – SDA's MEB Library has a wealth of resources and scripts, including one-act virtual scripts. It is available to anyone to browse on our website. If you require assistance in finding what you require, please contact the SDA office via email: [dramainfo@sasktel.net](mailto:dramainfo@sasktel.net).

\*\*Not a member? Complete an Adult Membership form or an Associate Membership application available on SDA's website – [www.saskdrama.com](http://www.saskdrama.com).

Saskatchewan Drama Association thanks you for your continued support.

## SDA COVID-19 Protocol Guidelines for Live Performances

SDA suggest the following Guideline while attending a live performance at a SDA's Festival.

Note: There may be protocols in certain facilities that are not listed here that performing groups as well as audiences will need to follow.

1. Purchase tickets from your Host prior to the performance. There will be a limited number of available seats and registered groups will take priority.
2. Arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled performance time.
3. Patrons should enter through designated entrances where hand sanitizers will be located.
4. Traffic flow should be marked with stickers or tape.
5. Do not gather prior to the performances in the lobby or other common areas to allow staff and performers to maintain physical distancing.
6. Wear a mask while attending a live performance, i.e., in the theatre, in the bathroom, in the lobby or atrium, while entering and exiting the facility.
7. Go directly to your seat leaving 2 meters between groups attending. Each facility will have their own protocols in place for seating patrons and number of seats available.
8. There will be no intermissions. Set and Strike for each group are considered part of the performance.
9. Leave the facility using the designated exits.
10. There will be no 'in and out' privileges, i.e., if you exit the performance session, you will not be allowed back in.

# SDA COVID-19 Protocol Guidelines For Employee Safety

## **Safety precautions**

SDA is elevating our safety precautions. **If you are not feeling well**, you **MUST** work from home. In addition, we expect you to stay home for a minimum of two weeks after all symptoms have dissipated.

We encourage you to follow **usual health precautions**, such as:

- washing your hands often;
- social distancing and avoiding interaction with those who are sick;
- refraining from touching your face more than is necessary;
- practising proper coughing and sneezing etiquette;
- avoiding crowded events; and
- avoiding non-essential travel.

## **Office visitors**

- All visitors other than delivery people should not enter into SDA's office space.
- If you wish to visit the office, you must make an appointment. To do so, email SDA at [dramainfo@sasktel.net](mailto:dramainfo@sasktel.net)
- Please do not enter SDA's office if you have traveled outside the country in the past 14 days.

## **Work travel and visits**

- SDA staff, volunteers, and board members will not be required to travel. However, if it is safe to do so, travel within Saskatchewan will be allowed on a case by case basis.
- SDA reminds everyone to limit their personal travel and social gatherings in line with accepted protocols set by Saskatchewan Health.