

**Dear Stettler and District Music Festival Participant,**

**As some of you may have heard that Coronation Music festival has cancelled their Grand Concert this year because the COVID-19 situation. With that being stated the Stettler and District Music Festival committee is watching and listening closely as the COVID-19 bulletins are released. *AT THIS TIME*, we will not be cancelling any of our dates, we are a month away from starting and we will need assess closer to our first day- April 14-2020.**

**The Alberta Music Festival Association of which the Stettler festival is a member, has issued the following statement and we are in agreement with what RJ Chambers -AMFA president has stated below and will be considering the following recommendations and guidelines over the upcoming weeks.**

*The local festival boards will need to come to a decision that is right for their competitors and community, but this decision should be based in fact rather than worry or speculation. Below are some general things to keep in mind as you make these decisions (keep in mind that this continues to develop rapidly):*

- 1. The risk of exposure in Alberta remains low. Of 23 confirmed cases (at the writing of this note), all of those cases are travel related and all of those individuals and those they have been in contact with have been quarantined in their homes.*
- 2. The Alberta Government has recommended that gatherings of 250 or more be cancelled. It is worth noting that most festival gatherings are well under this 250 benchmark as most classes have a handful of participants with minimal public audience outside of family and close friends.*
- 3. The Alberta Government has recommended that gatherings of 50 or more that contain a high proportion of vulnerable population be cancelled. It is worth noting that children are NOT included in the list of those vulnerable and that children that have contracted COVID-19, for the most part, develop mild symptoms. Those that are in the vulnerable list are those with autoimmune issues and individuals over the age of sixty.*
- 4. Performing Arts is not typically a close contact activity (with the possible exception of choir and band – more about that below). Provided space is given for competitors and for audiences to spread out, potential risk will remain extremely low.*
- 5. The risk of exposure for students is much higher in their own school as it would be at a local festival. This is worth keeping in mind for choirs and bands in particular.*

*With all of that said, if your local festival plans to continue with your local festival, AMFA makes the following recommendations:*

- 1. Hand Sanitizer and/or hand-washing stations should be available in all venues.*
- 2. Shared instruments (such as pianos) should have hand sanitizer available at the instrument so each player can self-sanitize before and after use. Additionally, pianos and other shared instruments should be wiped down with a disinfectant regularly throughout the day.*
- 3. Volunteers and Adjudicators should have sanitizer available for their use and volunteers should encourage all participants and audience to sanitize when coming onsite and avoid personal interactions such as handshakes and hugs.*
- 4. Notices should be placed on all venue entry doors indicating that anyone exhibiting cold or flu symptoms should refrain from entering the facility.*

**Please feel free to contact the Stettler & District Music Festival with any concerns either through email at [stmusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:stmusicfestival@gmail.com) or by phone to our Chairperson Wendy Staal at 403-740-3198.**

**Thank you and stay healthy folks!**

**Yours Truly,**

**The Stettler & District Music Festival Committee**

**[www.stettlermusicfestival.com](http://www.stettlermusicfestival.com)**