

COVID-19 GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

for music stores / instrument workshops / musicians



HARPS & LYRES

CELTIC & CLASSICAL HARPS



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These recommendations are based on the current knowledge and are provided for the time needed to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

Always maintain a minimum distance of 1.50m from any other person.
Wearing a mask is mandatory in public transportation and recommended when moving inside the shop or the workshop when several persons are present.



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CELTIC HARPS, CLASSICAL HARPS, LYRES
ANY KIND OF ACCESSORIES FOR HARPS.

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

IMPORTANT REMINDER: This disinfection recommendation guidance must only be followed if you believe you have been in contact with the virus. We recommend, however, that you pay special attention to the different lacquers and parts of the instrument, and ideally contact your manufacturer.

When trying an instrument in a store or workshop, should the musician washes / disinfects their hands correctly, wears a face mask and washes / disinfects their hands once again after trying the instrument, the risks of virus transmission between the musician and the instrument will significantly be reduced.

These recommendations are based on the current knowledge and are provided for the time needed to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 / PREAMBLE

Following are the situations when the instrument / accessory could be contaminated (these cases depend on whether you are a musician or work in a workshop or a music store):

- Purchase, rental
- Repair or maintenance
- Exhibition / trade show
- Bench trial in a workshop or a shop
- Loan, class, rehearsal or live performance
- Transportation
- Using / playing the instrument without prior hand washing / disinfecting
- If someone touches it or gets close to it (<2m and coughs or talks)

In any other case, disinfection is not necessary. Regular cleaning and maintenance of the instrument and its accessories remain the good practice, whether the virus is present or not.

Good practice is common sense

- Prior to any disinfection, wash / disinfect your hands and clean every part of the instrument and accessories with a disinfected dry cloth¹;
- Do not use any paper-based material such as paper towels which may scratch the lacquers and leave bits of lint on the surfaces
- If possible, quarantine the instrument and its accessories, for it will significantly help reduce the virus levels. The virus survival on the different surfaces depends on multiple parameters such as material, texture, humidity, presence of proteins and bio film. Preliminary data give a more accurate evaluation of the necessary quarantine duration according to the material. Please read Section 4 for further information about the quarantine.
- Before applying any of the products listed below on the entire instrument and its accessories, please try on a small part of it
- When multiple persons are playing or using an instrument and its accessories, encourage them to use at least a surgical face mask and wash / disinfect their hands.

(1): Do not use the cloth multiple times without either disinfecting it with an effective product, or washing it at 60°C or higher for over 30 minutes. Otherwise, throw it away in an airtight container.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2/ DISINFECTANT PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

The following products allow for disinfection which will significantly reduce the virus levels.

You will find in the second part of this document a list of products suited for the different parts of your instrument:

- Chlorate derivatives: bleach > 0.5%. The value represents the sodium hypochlorite concentration. It's usually available with a 2.6% concentration – or a 5 times maximum dilution – which means one dose of the 2.6% product for 4 doses of cold water.
- 70% Alcohol. Alcohol is a well-known virucidal agent. Here's a list of recommended alcohols:
 - Ethanol (the most common)
 - Isopropyl alcohol
 - Their concentration must be at least 70% (drugstores).
- NF EN 14476 standard compliant products (Sanytol®, Sani-Cloth®), in which hydrogen peroxide or quaternary ammoniums (didecyldimethylammonium chloride) are the most common active agents ; please strictly follow the instructions of use (e.g. contact time). These are often alcohol-free solutions.
- Soap. Certain soaps have proven effectiveness in deactivating the virus but only after 3 minutes of use. These are:
 - KLINTE DE® soap, diluted 10 times
 - Little Marcel Green Soap®, effective when diluted up to 10 times.

However, this effectiveness is not guaranteed for all soaps and application modes. Other products should therefore be preferred whenever possible. Most notably, soap cannot be applied on an instrument with a friction that is equivalent to that of the hands, nor with the same amount of water. It's probably not as efficient when only “applied” and wiped up.

⚠ Non-Validated Products

The following products have been tested against active SARS-CoV-2 but have not demonstrated sufficient efficiency as a disinfectant.

- 3% hydrogen peroxide (or 10 volumes).



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Disinfection Processes

We can see, especially on the Internet, that UV- or ozone-based processes are used for disinfecting music instruments and other products. Extreme caution is required when using these methods to potential health risks, if they have not been certified by independent, scientific and professional organizations.

⚠ • Ultraviolet treatments can be efficient in certain contexts but they must be handled with extreme caution because they may be harmful to the skin and eyes and may form ozone, which is toxic. Moreover, these processes do not guarantee full efficiency, in particular when specific parts cannot be lit. It is important to take into account the UV-C light wave length (220 to 280nm), its power, distance and exposure duration. These treatments may also damage the lacquers, especially on string quartet instruments. In any case, the provider must present evidence of the effectiveness of such approach (in particular the time required to deactivate SARS-CoV-2).

⚠ • Ozone in gas phase may deactivate viruses, but at high concentrations only, which will be harmful to human beings. Its use requires very specific knowledge and skills. It is not particularly recommended to this day.

3/ CLOTHS AND CLEANSING WIPES

- Microfiber cloths that won't scratch the lacquers can be reused after being disinfected or washed (> 30 minutes, > 60°C, with a detergent product).
- Non-impregnated polishing cloths or wipes can be reused after disinfection or wash (> 30 minutes, > 60°C, with a detergent product).
- Pre-impregnated wipes, please ensure that these are NF EN 14476 standard compliant², that they are not abrasive and follow their instructions of use. Please pay attention to the string quartet instrument lacquers and check compatibility, in particular when using alcohol products.
- Avoid any paper towels on the lacquers, but preferably use cotton cloths instead.

⁽²⁾ NF EN 14476 standard means that the product inactivates 99.99% viruses (per 10,000 division) in the protocol provided by the manufacturer.

4/ QUARANTINE

Quarantine duration has not been clearly defined yet, because it depends on multiple factors (material of the surface to be decontaminated, room ventilation, humidity, temperature, and more).

Several results have emerged. Most notably, the common 3-day duration is in no way the generic rule. The instrument or accessory material must be taken into account. The list below describes the materials for which the viral load is sufficiently reduced. These results follow from trials carried out by a French Institute using SARS-CoV-2, for the purposes of the PIC Project (Protocoles pour les Instruments face au Coronavirus / Procedures against Coronavirus for Music Instruments). This is the second part of the PIC Project, the first one being the writing of these guidebooks.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Materials on which the virus has been sufficiently deactivated (disinfection) after 3 days

Silver
 Nickel
 Nickel Silver
 Gold Plating
 ABS Plastic
 Polyurethane Varnish
 Nitrocellulose Varnish

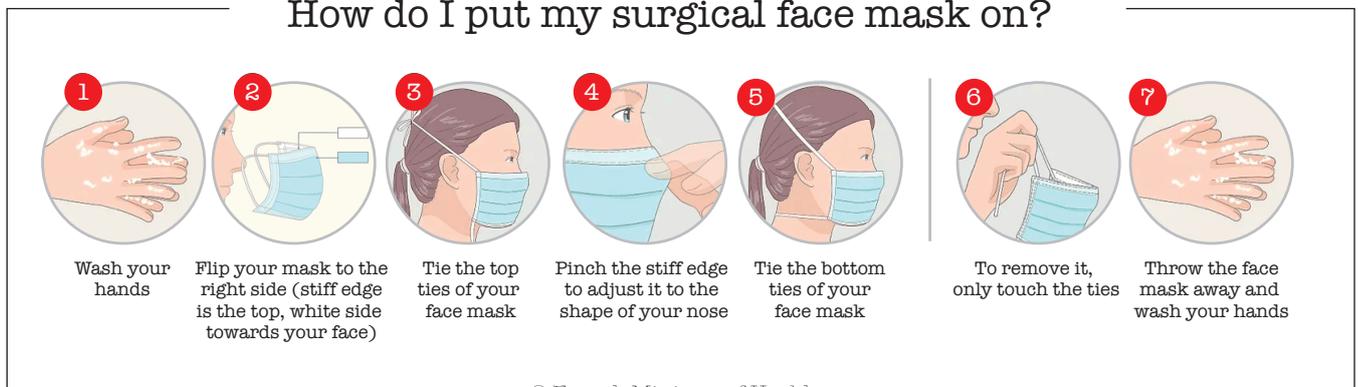
Materials on which the virus is still active in significant amounts after 3 days, (quarantine during at least 6 days as a precaution)

Ebonite
 Brass
 Oil-Based Varnish
 Alcohol-Based Varnish
 Epoxy Resin-Based Varnish

5/ FACE MASK USE

- Wearing a face mask is mandatory when being near other persons.
- Strictly follow the protocol to wear your mask:

How do I put my surgical face mask on?



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CELTIC & CLASSICAL HARPS

HARP AND LYRE DESCRIPTION



1/ BODY / NECK / SOUNDBOARD

Process

1. Wash / disinfect your hands.
2. With a face mask and optional gloves on, wipe with a dry and disinfected chamois cotton or microfiber cloth which won't scratch the varnish (especially on gloss finishes). Do not throw the cloth away: if it can't be disinfected immediately after the process described above, keep it in an airtight container or a closed plastic bag and disinfect it later.



CELTIC & CLASSICAL HARPS

3. **For harps with non-hydro polyurethane lacquer finish**, disinfection is possible with alcohol/ethanol-based products, or NF EN 14476 compliant products and cleansing wipes, or bleach diluted more than 0,5% in cold water. Gently wipe with a cloth or a cleansing cloth which was previously slightly moistened with the product. Do not soak the cleansing cloth with the product, and rinse with a disinfected cloth. When using an NF EN 14476 compliant product or cleansing cloth, let stand according to the “contact time” indicated on the package before wiping off to remove any residual traces of disinfecting agent.
4. **For harps which feature non-hydro polyurethane lacquer finish** (Hydro PU varnish, cellulose, glycerophthalic...), no compatibility information has been validated yet. We recommend using soapy water (black soap or Marseille soap). Gently wipe with a cloth or a cleansing cloth which was previously slightly moistened with soapy water. Do not soak the cleansing cloth, then rinse with a disinfected cloth.
5. **In any case, do not reuse the cloth after disinfecting the instrument** (disinfect it by following the process described above, wash it or throw it away in an airtight container).
6. **In any case, preventive measures remain mandatory**, especially wearing a face mask when playing the instrument, and not touching your face.
7. **For golden harps:** some grand concert harps are gold leaf plated. This gilding is protected by an acrylic-type lacquer. Apart from product compatibility issues with this kind of lacquer, the extreme delicacy of this finish will remain the main problem. Therefore, we recommend not cleaning any of the leaf gilded parts. These golden parts are never in contact with the hands or face because the gold leaves are applied to the pillar and the front part of the base. Moreover, players rarely share these harps between one another.

Products / Disinfection Processes	Body / Neck		Strings	
	PU-lacquered wood / Polyester / UV	Lacquered wood Cellulose / French Polishing	Gut PU-lacquer	Nylon / Metal
Chlorate derivatives coming from bleach > 0.5 %	Yes	To be tested	Yes	To be tested
70%+ Alcohol	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
14476 standard compliant products (Sanytol®, Sani-Cloth®, etc.)	Yes	Yes, Alcohol-free	Yes	Yes



CELTIC & CLASSICAL HARPS

2/ LEVERS / PEDALS

Process

1. Wash / disinfect your hands.
2. With a face mask on, wipe off with a disinfected dry cloth. Do not throw the cloth away: if it can't be disinfected immediately after the process described above, keep it in an airtight container or a closed plastic bag and disinfect it later.
3. Metal levers and pedals (except non-slip matting) can be disinfected with any of the products above. Gently wipe with a cleansing cloth or a cloth which was previously slightly moistened with the product. Do not soak the cloth with the product, then rinse with a disinfected cloth. When using an NF EN 14476 compliant product or cleansing cloth, let stand according to the "contact time" indicated on the package before wiping off to remove any residual traces of disinfecting agent.
4. In any case, do not reuse the cloth after disinfecting the instrument (disinfect it by following the process described above, wash it or throw it away in an airtight container).
5. Non-slip pedal caps and tuning keys are compatible with all the products mentioned in this document.

Products / Disinfection Processes	Levers	Pedals
	Metal	Metal
Chlorate derivatives coming from bleach > 0.5 %	Yes	Yes
70%+ Alcohol	Yes	Yes
14476 standard compliant products (Sanytol®, Sani-Cloth®, etc.)	Yes	Yes



LYRES

BODY / SOUNDBOARD / CROSSBAR / TAILPIECE / BRIDGE / TUNING PINS (WOOD)

Process

1. Wash / disinfect your hands.
2. With a face mask and optional gloves on, wipe with a dry and disinfected chamois cotton or microfiber cloth which won't scratch the varnish (especially on gloss finishes). Disinfect or wash the cloth (at 60°C for 30 minutes).
3. For lyres with nitrocellulose-type or alcohol (French polishing) lacquer, we recommend washing with soapy water first (black soap or Marseille soap only). Gently wipe with a cloth or a cleansing cloth which was previously slightly moistened with soapy water. Do not soak the cleansing cloth, then rinse with a disinfected soft dry cloth. Sani-Cloth® or Cleanisept®- type cleansing wipes can be used to disinfect alcohol-sensitive materials.
4. For lyres with waxed finishes, use cloth moistened with aqueous-alcoholic solution and quickly wipe several times without scrubbing.
5. In any case, do not reuse the cloth after disinfecting the instrument (disinfect it by following the process described above, wash it or throw it away in an airtight container).
6. Preventive measures remain mandatory, especially wearing a face mask when playing the instrument, not touching your face and keeping a reasonable distance from other musicians.

Products / Disinfection Processes	Body / Soundboard / Crossbar / Tailpiece / Bridge / Tuning Pins (wood)			Strings	
	Lacquered wood Cellulose / French Polishing	Waxed wood	Unprocessed wood	Gut PU-lacquer	Nylon / Metal
Chlorate derivatives coming from bleach > 0.5 %	To be tested	To be tested	To be tested	Yes	To be tested
70%+ Alcohol	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14476 standard compliant products (Sanytol®, Sani-Cloth®, etc.)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

Products / Disinfection Processes	Tuning Keys and Pins	Cover
	Metal	Fabrics
Chlorate derivatives coming from bleach > 0.5 %	Yes	Yes
70%+ Alcohol	Yes	Yes
14476 standard compliant products (Sanytol®, Sani-Cloth®, etc.)	Yes	Yes



STRINGS & ACCESSORIES

1/ STRINGS

Process

1. Wash / disinfect your hands.
2. With a face mask on, wipe off with a clean, disinfected dry cloth. Do not throw the cloth away: if it can't be disinfected immediately after the process described above, keep it in an airtight container or a closed plastic bag and disinfect it later. Disinfect or wash the cloth (at 60°C for 30 minutes).
3. For strings with polyurethane lacquer finish (non-hydro), disinfection is possible with alcohol/ethanol-based products or NF EN 14476 compliant products and cleansing wipes, or bleach diluted more than 0,5% in cold water. Gently wipe with a cloth or a cleansing cloth which was previously slightly moistened with the product. Do not soak the cloth with the product, then rinse with a disinfected cloth. When using an NF EN 14476 compliant product or cleansing cloth, let stand according to the "contact time" indicated on the package before wiping off to remove any residual traces of disinfecting agent.
4. For strings that don't feature non-hydro polyurethane-type finish (hydro PU, cellulose, glycerophthalic... lacquers), no compatibility information has been validated yet. We recommend using soapy water (black soap or Marseille soap). Gently wipe with a cloth or a cleansing cloth which was previously slightly moistened with soapy water. Do not soak the cleansing cloth, then rinse with a disinfected cloth. Although this operation is not a disinfection, this process reduces the risk of possible virus presence, but without eliminating it.
5. In any case, do not reuse the cloth after disinfecting the instrument (disinfect it by following the process described above, wash it or throw it away in an airtight container).

2/ ACCESSORIES

- Tuning key

Any type of disinfecting product.

- Adjustable seats and bench with handles

Disinfection process for lacquered wooden parts is the same as for the harp (see Chapter A, especially the types of lacquers). For fabrics, velvet, leather or leatherette: considering the wide variety of materials, we can't recommend any universal solution. As a precaution, we recommend avoiding touching the cushion then your face with your hands. Only touch the parts that can be safely cleaned or disinfected (frame, handles) with moving or maneuvering the seat/bench.

- Cover

Quarantine should be preferred. Should the harp be protected with a cover which may have been exposed to the virus (in a shop, a class or during group practice): when installing the instrument, wear a face mask, avoid touching your face and wash your hands after positioning.



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