

# Summary and Recommendations from the NZ Circus Studio H&S Roundtable - Covid19

Saturday 2nd May

2pm - 3pm

Online Zui (Zoom Hui)

*(This document released on the 12th May 2020)*

Firstly, a huge thanks to all who joined us for this discussion. The range of studios and schools represented was inspiring and goes far to remind us of the community and support that we all have available to us.

Our aim was to create a safe place for our members to discuss the common challenges we will face moving between Covid -19 response levels as well as share resources to help our members make informed decisions and this document is a summary of this.

Since our Zui we have had two big announcements regarding Level 2 which have been the reason we have not published this summary and recommendations prior to now. We appreciate everyone's patience.

## List of roundtable participants

Nick Creech: Deputy Chair- ANZCA, Board member- The Circus Hub

Rosalie Ducharme: Secretary- ANZCA, General Manager- The Circus Hub

Eve Gordon: Chairperson ANZCA, Artistic Director/Producer- The Dust Palace

Damara Sylvester: Owner Operator; InsideOut Circus and Physical Theatre

Achmed Abman: Creative Director- Circool Circus

Anouk: Committee member- Cirotica

Benny Searle: Director- React Studio

Danny Lee Syme: Artistic Director- Lyttleton Circo Arts

Evelyn Coulson: Steering Committee Member- ANZCA, Trainer- Circability

Gabby : Aracnation

Jaine Mieka: Trainer- The Dust Palace

Jason Parlour: Co-Chairperson- The Circus Hub

Jess O'Connor: The Dust Palace

Jodi Ann Russell: Trainer- The Dust Palace, Trainer- Flip and Fly

Kahurangi Bronsson-George: Trainer and Performer

Joe Wilson: Committee member and Trainer- Cirotica

Marc Tyron: Independent Producer

Michael Armstrong: Board member- The Circus Hub

Rebecca Bilyard: Aracnation, Circuit Aerial Arts

Tess Munro: Independent performer and trainer

Thomas Hinz: Creative director Circability

Tobias Dominic Miller: Circability

Violet : Altitude Pole Christchurch

Yulia Borodin : Trainer- Cirotica

Zane Jarvie: Board Member- The Circus Hub

## **Alert level 2 and what it means for us.**

The good news is that we can open our spaces again, albeit with some restrictions, but we can open to our communities again and get people doing what they love to do. The onus is on you and your communities to be vigilant and as the PM said, play it safe.

To begin with we'd like to remind you to always refer to the government guidelines as information is ever changing. <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/#play-it-safe>

For those considered to be high risk we recommend they follow the guidelines [At Risk People - Who is at Higher Risk from Coronavirus](#)

## **Controls at Alert Level 2**

- **Compulsory handwashing** pre and post-training for clients and staff, after touching their face, coughing or sneezing, and after using the toilet. Washing should be with soap and water for 20 seconds and hands dried thoroughly. Repeat often.
- **Avoid touching your face while training, teaching, and working with clients**, if you do then wash or sanitize your hands after.
- **Encourage use of non-shared equipment**, if it must be shared then it should be thoroughly cleaned after use and before anyone else uses it.
- **Provide antiviral cleaning products and wipes** so that staff and clients can clean shared equipment.
- **Ensure physical distancing 2 metres is preferred but 1 metre is acceptable.** Where needed create rules and protocols to enforce this – eg: Create training islands. Avoid touching others unless absolutely necessary (spotting). *The rules about distances for gyms and sports are still being discussed and will be clarified by the government later in the week.* [Sport and recreation activities at Alert Levels 1 – 4](#)
- **Keep accurate logs of who comes into your space.** Should there be further COVID-19 cases the Ministry of Health or other authorities will request this. Ensure there is documentation via an app, log/guest book for all visitors including both dates, times and a way to contact them. <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/posters/COVID-19-contact-tracing-register-A4.pdf>
- Let everyone (staff and clients) know if they are **experiencing any flu-like symptoms to stay home** and follow MOH guidance.
- **Sneeze or cough into elbows**, provide disposable tissues (use once and throw away), wash hands immediately after.
- **Stay informed and up to date.** Check out the latest information from the [Ministry of Health](#) regularly, as the situation rapidly changes.
- **Must not have groups larger than 10 people in your space.**
- **Maintain a 2 hour time limit for groups to be on your premises.**

## **Discussion summary on what we as a sector need to think about before reopening our studios?**

One of the aspects that sets circus apart as a sector is our reliance on equipment and speciality spaces. Good cleaning practices need to be implemented by both studios and individuals and the trust and responsibility that both sides need to demonstrate is paramount in keeping each other safe.

Although we had an agenda most of the topics overlapped in one way or another so below is a summary of the points discussed regarding how the associated risks of opening your studio/school/facility under level 2 can be mitigated.

1. There will be a lot of trust put in individuals and studios, how will this be fostered and communicated?
  - 1.1. Waivers are a good way to align expectations
  - 1.2. Education and “buy in” of new H&S practices needs to happen.
  - 1.3. Creating a culture of hygiene.
  - 1.4. Don’t touch your face.
  - 1.5. Clean your hands.
  - 1.6. Create an “entry to your space” checklist poster to help people to remember to check in, wash hands etc.
2. Will you allow people to share equipment?
  - 2.1. If so how will you ensure its cleanliness?
  - 2.2. Tracking shared equipment usage will be necessary to help with cleaning rosters and stand down periods to ensure it's safe to use again.
3. Can people use their own equipment?
  - 3.1. Can they make their own equipment (Not aerial equipment) such as juggling balls or hula hoops?
  - 3.2. How will you ensure that personal equipment is safe to be used? For example personal aerial equipment.
  - 3.3. It’s a good time to put inspection practices in place for individuals. Refer to [ANZCAs Circus Safe](#), our H&S document for an example of inspection protocols.
4. Will you allow new enrolments or only allow existing students?
5. What will your cleaning regime be? (Link at the end of this doc for cleaning suggestions on different surfaces).
  - 5.1. Whose responsibility will the cleaning be?
  - 5.2. What equipment is safe to be cleaned?
  - 5.3. You leave equipment to “air out” then use it 72 hours after as this *should* be enough time for the virus to die.
6. How will you ensure physical distances are respected?
  - 6.1. Spaces or training islands can be marked out on the floor.
  - 6.2. Scheduling changeover times between classes and training times to alleviate “traffic jams” in your space..
  - 6.3. Waiting areas, can people wait in their car, outside, or do you have enough space that they can wait inside safely?

7. What are your H&S responsibilities as a studio? Refer to <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
8. Should you assign someone to monitor the comings and goings of people in your space to ensure that your documentation is sound?
9. Are your employees personally ok to come back to work?
  - 9.1. Are they comfortable being back in the studio?
10. What level of training will you allow?
  - 10.1. Eliminating or minimising the need for trainers to spot
  - 10.2. Some studios will avoid acrobatics for the time being.

Some specific discussion around kids' classes

- How to make cleaning fun as opposed to a chore for the kids.
- Kids will likely be building these habits at school so capitalising on this practise will be useful.
- Are you or your staff ready/comfortable to manage kids in this environment?
- Young kids will be harder to control so will you allow them back or just older kids?

### **Preparing to train again**

Another point discussed was that of people being ready to train again as they have almost all had a considerable amount of time away from what they love to do.

- Reminding people to start slowly and to be gentle to themselves as far as expectations of skills.
- Peoples bodies and minds need to ease back into training to avoid injury.
- Accidents happen when our bodies are not in shape, AN injury will mean more time not doing circus which is the last thing anyone wants.

**It's important to remember that we are still getting a lot of new info every day and this means studios need to exercise their due diligence to keep on top of this. Remember it takes one person not agreeing with you H&S practices to "spark a publicity fire" so keep communications open with your community. It's also important to remember that we will not entirely eliminate the risk of transmission, but it is our responsibility to reduce it as much as is practically possible and within the risk level you and your community feel comfortable doing within the government guidelines.**

### **Moving forward, what should you do?**

Besides the above considerations around opening your space and following the government's guidelines we would recommend to consider the following steps before opening up to the public..

- Do a risk/hazard analysis and or safety plan for your space. *Worksafe suggests this template [COVID-19 safety plan](#). A *draft* from The Circus Hub has kindly been shared by Rosalie Ducharme for reference, feel free to chop it up and use it if it helps you.*
- Do some dress rehearsals of how you envision the comings and goings of your staff and clients to work.
- Do some dress rehearsals of how you envision the classes to be laid out.
- Communicate with both your staff and your community to manage expectations.
- Ensure that you have the ability to contract trace.

Be flexible to adapt, this is new for us all so learning will happen and don't forget there is a community that is all facing the same challenges so reach out if you need help.

## Useful resources

Besides the website linked above we've added a few extra below we have found useful.

The Exercise association and the resources they are releasing are very useful and membership is free for now. We would recommend checking their website regularly. <https://exercisenz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-May-6-CV19-Framework-Exercise-Industry.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3zaFMXnPcJNV9LAXBrIAAVIFbOpL1q-yRSztPrsz6kVVBiBYbbwIhtmQ>

### Tracing

This is the tracing document provided on the Covid19 website.

[0046 MBI COVID-19\\_L3\\_Bus Toolkit-Contact Tracing Register A4\\_5\\_LB\\_FA.indd](#)

This Christchurch company has produced a free check in based contact tracing program that seems to be easy to use and non-invasive. <https://tracing.co.nz/get>

### Cleaning procedures (USA based document)

The below document has some great advice regarding cleaning, but please note that it is now more than a month old and we will post a link to the new one when it comes out. It is from the following Facebook page which has good documents available in their files. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/circusandaerialsafety/>

[https://lookaside.fbsbx.com/file/Corona%20Guidance%20for%20circus%20studios%20%284%29.pdf?token=AWxqF1ceI5BxCYW3La6K3JRv-HYTD5i2trdJHfYz2scU2wCXyHZk3C6J2UFWE7AnbHdp5M\\_NLS5Q3CsJjUalUkZAG-OYTpXGIQEJ1GnKiuEeTNZihf9Rcs6HfxWfIGMwE4q0cQcpm1-U7PQW1r-wAMHICAJJPgkLD-9YU0EymJdK6Q](https://lookaside.fbsbx.com/file/Corona%20Guidance%20for%20circus%20studios%20%284%29.pdf?token=AWxqF1ceI5BxCYW3La6K3JRv-HYTD5i2trdJHfYz2scU2wCXyHZk3C6J2UFWE7AnbHdp5M_NLS5Q3CsJjUalUkZAG-OYTpXGIQEJ1GnKiuEeTNZihf9Rcs6HfxWfIGMwE4q0cQcpm1-U7PQW1r-wAMHICAJJPgkLD-9YU0EymJdK6Q)

### Posters

<https://covid19.govt.nz/resources/>

<https://exercisenz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid19-ExNZ-Poster.pdf>

