

# **Mindful Piano - Risk Assessment (RA) - Focus - risks of returning to Face to Face private piano teaching at 101 Columbine Road in the light of the Coronavirus-19 pandemic**

**Date of RA - 12th May 2021**

**Persons who may be affected by the activity** - Teacher, Students, potential new students and families and other people who those persons come into contact with.

## **Introduction**

1. Since lockdown commenced piano teaching moved online only in the Mindful Piano Studio. As a result of the easing of the lockdown and a change in advice from EPTA UK, my professional association, I am now returning to face to face teaching. EPTA advises that it is a matter for individual teachers to decide but they should do so based on the best and most reliable sources of information, following the production of a risk assessment and after taking steps to make their workplace COVID - secure. Their public liability insurance will remain valid for all teachers who comply with Government guidelines.
2. Risk will always occur on a return to face to face teaching, the questions which arise is are these risks manageable and should they be taken. What is clear is that online piano teaching remains the safest way to proceed as it is a no risk option. This risk assessment is a matter for collaboration between parents, students and the teacher - and earlier version of this assessment has been consulted with students and agreement sought to the control measures put in place. It will be kept under review.
3. A trial of face to face lessons took place over the summer to review the effectiveness of the control measures and this worked well and positive feedback was received.
4. The Studio will continue to offer online lessons now that this has been implemented and has been shown to be an effective way to conduct lessons and if any students wish, lessons can continue to be provided on that basis, or even if it is just a more convenient way to conduct lessons for the student. There is also the option of some lessons being face to face and some online - a hybrid option. I have purchased an additional keyboard to ensure I can have a Face to Face studio and an online studio running at the same time.

5. All concerned should be aware of the impact if someone who has attended the studio is identified as positive for COVID 19 - this would mean that under the trace and test system isolating for 14 days for everyone who has attended, including myself - all lessons would then have to go back to being on Zoom and this would impact on attendance at work/school etc - so it is a serious matter and a reason why all these precautions must be put in place. Current guidance which needs to be complied with is all at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
6. This risk assessment considers the risk posed by Coronavirus-19 (SARS-CoV-2) by identifying circumstances where exposure to the virus could occur (see B – ‘Sources of Risk’). Existing control measures (that are already in place) for managing the associated risk are defined (see C – ‘Control Measures’). Responsibility for these measures are indicated in the text itself.
7. To determine if the sources of risk are managed adequately by the existing control measures, the level of residual risk (taking into account the effect of the control measures) is calculated (see D). Residual risk level is calculated using a scoring matrix looking at the likelihood and severity of the risk - (see attachment). Where the residual risk is scored higher than 6, further action may be required to reduce the risk further (see E).
8. Circumstances of potential exposure or increased risk of serious illness are identified in the following broad areas
  - Close proximity activity (air borne transmission) - due to the size of the piano studio only 1m separation is possible, rather than 2m which suggests that additional measures need to be put in place. An additional measure of taking temperatures of those entering the studio is proposed to counter this potential threat.
  - Contact with surfaces
  - Travel to and from lesson on public transport
  - Travel on foreign holidays - current guidance is at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus> - a new green, amber, red classification is in place with quarantine requirements in place for some countries still so this advice must be complied with by families

B. Sources of risk	C. Existing Control Measures	D. Risk	E. Additional Measures
<p>Close proximity between teacher and student could result in airborne transmission of virus</p>	<p>1m gap maintained between student (and parent as applicable) and teacher. Studio set up so positioning will be side to side using an additional keyboard, and face coverings to be worn - students, parents and siblings to provide their own face coverings. Only the student and teacher will be in the studio together - the waiting room will now be in the hall. No more than 2 persons should accompany the student to lessons I.e. only 1 sibling will be permitted to attend. Access to the house will be restricted to the piano studio, the hall and the downstairs WC (if essential). Ventilation is provided in the room through opening by the teacher of the studio door and window. No singing to take place in the studio by either teacher or student as this increases the risk of possible transmission.</p>	<p>Severity high (4), likelihood low (1) - total 4.</p>	<p>Screens installed in the studio separating the student and teacher.</p>

B. Sources of risk	C. Existing Control Measures	D. Risk	E. Additional Measures
<p>Touching common contact surfaces including those listed below could result in virus transmission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Door handles</li> <li>- Piano keys</li> <li>- Music</li> <li>- Practice notes</li> <li>- Piano Stool</li> <li>- Foot rest</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils and parent/siblings asked to limit surfaces they touch to a minimum. Students use their own music in lessons, bring their own pencils and erasers to lessons and write their own notes in their practice notebooks (as applicable). Teacher to clean all common contact surfaces immediately prior to each student arriving. Teacher will open door to allow students to enter and leave. Teacher, parent and student and any siblings disinfect hands immediately before and after the lesson. Teacher to make hand sanitiser available. Teacher to revise schedule to provide 5 minute gap between lessons and notify all parents/students. Pupils should avoid touching their faces when at the keyboard and if they do so should disinfect their hands again. The round adjustable piano stool will be used for all students - the teacher will adjust it to the correct height (once established) for each pupil prior to the commencement of the lesson. The teacher will provide the foot rest for those students who need it and will remove as necessary at the end of the lesson.</p>	<p>Severity high (4), likelihood low (1) - total 4.</p>	<p>An additional measure the teacher will take is to clean the carpet in the studio on a regular basis with an anti bacterial carpet cleaner.</p>

B. Sources of risk	C. Existing Control Measures	D. Risk	E. Additional Measures
<p>Teacher and student are at increased risk of having and transmitting Covid-19 if any of the following apply to any members of their households::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tested positive for Covid-19</li> <li>- Covid-19 symptoms (cough, temperature, loss of taste or smell)</li> <li>- Contact with a confirmed Covid-19 case.</li> </ul>	<p>Students/Parents asked to advise if any of the following applies to them or any member of their household:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tested positive for Covid-19</li> <li>- Continuous cough, temperature or loss of taste or smell symptoms</li> <li>- Contact with a confirmed Covid-19 case</li> <li>- In contact with a person with symptoms of COVID 19 in the past 14 days</li> </ul> <p>If this applies students should not attend the studio. If parents/students are unwell and are e.g. coughing a lot, even if non covid 19 related, they should still not attend the studio. If a parent/student/sibling has been tested for COVID 19 they should not attend the studio until the result of that test is known.</p>	<p>Severity high (4), likelihood low (1) - total 4.</p>	<p>Lessons can be provided via Zoom. Due to the size of the studio and unknown factors concerning whether or not COVID 19 viruses can hang in the air, temperature checks will be undertaken on all persons entering the premises through use of a non contact thermometer, to provide additional protection. Anyone demonstrating a temperature will not be allowed into the studio. Lateral flow tests are now available and if you have concerns this test can be taken in advance of lessons.</p>
<p>Students who are in a high risk group due to age or underlying health condition may be at greater risk of serious illness in the event of exposure.</p>	<p>Students who are at higher risk due to age or underlying health conditions are identified and extra vigilance applied by teacher regarding distancing and cleaning measures (see above). Vaccinations have been provided to a large % of the population which gives an additional level of protection.</p>	<p>Severity high (4), likelihood possible (2) - total 8.</p>	<p>Zoom lessons offered in place of face to face lessons.</p>

B. Sources of risk	C. Existing Control Measures	D. Risk	E. Additional Measures
Close proximity between students especially during crossover between lessons could result in airborne transmission of virus.	Teacher to provide 5 min gap between lessons to allow one student to leave before the next arrives. Teacher starts and finishes lessons promptly to ensure no crossover between students. Students asked to wait until they are invited to enter the premises and only enter after the previous student has left to ensure no crossover.	Severity high (4), likelihood low (1) - total 4.	
Parents/students/siblings travel on foreign holidays	Current guidance as referred to above must be complied with and quarantine put in place where applicable		Lessons can be offered by Zoom.
Students who need to use public transport including buses and trains could be in close proximity of other members of the public resulting in potential virus transmission.	Check if students who use public transport are able to maintain distancing.	Severity high (4), likelihood low (1) - total 4.	Offer lessons by Zoom if not confident social distancing can be maintained.