



# **Support and Advice Relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

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Keeping informed as to how Covid-19 is affecting the music business is proving to be a mammoth task at the moment, with changes happening all the time and a cycle of misinformation spreading at a constant rate. Artist Management Services is committed to supporting our clients through these unprecedented times by providing the most reliable information on the crisis. This report highlights support options, both financial and welfare-related\*, available to musicians during this tumultuous time.

\*All information correct at the time of publication

Understandably, many musicians may be extremely worried about the implications Covid-19 could have on their own health and that of their families. In addition to their immediate welfare concerns, it is the financial impact being keenly felt across the industry that poses significant risks to performers. In order to help provide our clients with the most reliable and useful information available, we have compiled a list of the following:

1. Where to check for the latest advice on Coronavirus
2. Practical steps for maintaining your immediate physical and mental wellbeing
3. Organisations that may be able to offer support to you

### **Where to check for the latest advice on Coronavirus**

For the most up to date information, we recommend using the government website as your primary source. For information specifically tailored to dealing with the disease itself, NHS advice is on their website and is updated on a regular basis.



As well as our own social media accounts, we recommend the website [coronamusicians.info](https://coronamusicians.info). This site is a thoroughly detailed, all-in-one source of information for all types of working musicians. Its simple layout makes navigating extremely easy, so finding exactly what you are looking for shouldn't be a problem. As well as compiling the latest government advice into easily digestible reading, musicians can also access financial, health and legal support, grants for ongoing projects and links to other important services.

### **Maintaining Your Physical and Mental Wellbeing**

The following information is wholly based on government and NHS advice.

Stay at home for seven days if you have either:

- a high temperature – if a thermometer is not available to you, check if you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back
- a new continuous cough – this means coughing repeatedly



It is important that you do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital when you start to feel unwell. You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home. If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period begins from the day when the first person became ill.

If you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, your condition continues to worsen, or your symptoms do not improve after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

The government introduced new measures on 23 March 2020 requiring all UK citizens to stay at home to reduce the spread of the infection. You should only leave the house for very limited purposes outlined in the government's advice on staying at home. Common sense methods for preventing the spread of the virus through basic hygiene can also be found on the NHS website.







## Organisations That May Be Able to Offer You Support

Given the extent of the current economic situation, government support for struggling musicians is likely to be slow to fully materialise. In the meantime, there are many organisations and charities that may be of benefit to you:

- The Musicians' Union have a website page dedicated to information on coronavirus [here](#).
- The Incorporated Society of Musicians has a similar page [here](#).
- Help Musicians Coronavirus Financial Hardship Fund – a £5 million hardship fund aimed at supporting people most in need in the short to medium term. Applications are being submitted now via the [link](#).
- Music Minds Matter - Help Musicians also run a support line, available any time of day or night for advice and help with mental health and wellbeing.

For advice pertaining specifically to debt management, the following sites might be useful:

- Stepchange
- Business Debt Line