Dear Performers,

**May Heydays and the Coronavirus Situation: Our Policy and Guidelines**

May Heydays will not postpone the 2020 festival unless the government, the local authority or our school venue tells us to do so; or the number of dancers cancelling their attendance threatens to make the festival unviable.

If the festival cannot go ahead, the members of our small committee will become personally liable for any unavoidable expenses incurred, as we have no public funding. It follows that if numbers drop below break-even point, our decision will be not to go ahead in 2020. We are working on the assumption that performers will only charge us for actual costs incurred on the festival's behalf, say accommodation booked and paid for by you that is not refundable by the provider. Please contact us if that is not ok with you and let us have a receipt of your costs asap (within 7 days) in case we have to cancel/postpone.

While the virus has been and is spreading, numbers are still very low in the UK at the moment, and, so far, there is very little community transmission. We will keep the situation under constant review and, in case of significant changes to the better or worse, will inform ticket holders and performers by email where possible. In case of a postponement decision, we will also ring those affected who have not supplied us with an email address. All the information will be on the [homepage](http://www.mayheydays.org.uk/choices.html) and on our [Facebook page](file:///C:\Users\ASUS\AppData\Local\Packages\Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe\TempState\Downloads\(https:\www.facebook.com\EastbourneInternationalFolkdanceFestival\).

At the moment we still have bookings coming in and we've had no "precautionary" cancellations, so the dance community itself seems confident. The school has assured us that they, too, will only make the venue unavailable if told to do so by the authorities.

**Policy for Keeping Transmission Risks to a Minimum During the Festival**

If we do go ahead, the following provisos will apply:

1) Please refrain from attending May Heydays if:

* You have any flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough or breathing difficulties.
* In the 3 weeks before the event you returned from travel to an area with “sustained local transmission” (not just a travel ban/warning).
* You have had close physical contact with a person currently under investigation for COVID-19 or who is a confirmed case of COVID-19.

2) If you are healthy and do attend the festival

* The school will provide soap in the toilets. Please wash, wash, wash your hands regularly with soap and hot water for a minimum 20 seconds (long enough to sing “Happy Birthday” to yourself twice).
* May Heydays will probably not be able to provide a large number of hand sanitizers (stocks are running low) so please bring your own if you can, which should be >60% alcohol with moisturiser included. Hand-sanitise regularly.
* Wash your hands before starting dancing sessions, before/after food and at the end of sessions.
* Avoid touching your own or other people’s faces.
* Bring a stock of paper tissues for coughs or sneezes and bin after use (sneeze into the crook of your elbow if nothing else). Hand sanitise after sneezing.
* Don’t hoard masks, they don’t protect you – they help stop sick people from spreading their germs.

3) If you start feeling ill during the festival and/or are noticed to display flu-like symptoms, you will be asked to go home.

During a folk dance event such as May Heydays, everyone is likely to get into physical contact with almost everyone else on the floor, and ***one person could potentially infect everyone else at the festival***. As our average age is well above the national average, we need to be extra careful.

So, please be aware, if feeling unwell, self-isolate and leave the festival as soon as you can to keep everyone else as safe as possible (please inform a steward or committee member of your leaving).

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Instead, to find out what to do next, use the 111 online coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/service/covid-19> .

We will not have the facilities to look after sick people.

For further reading on social dancing and Corona virus, please see:

https://www.danceplace.com/grapevine/dance-in-the-time-of-corona/?fbclid=IwAR0M7c-BYy2TR9\_EOfgKuuP-NO2FTrTZEysktr3A9GgYcyMu806vfzeUmsY

***Remember, we all owe a duty of care to ourselves and all those around us; please show your understanding and commitment to this by following these sensible guidelines.***

For information, our refunds policy for booked dancers is given below.

Mecki

Director, May Heydays

Tel 01308 423 442

**Refund Policy**

If the festival cannot run as planned, we will offer ticket holders refunds as follows:

* We will provide a financial summary showing the unrecoverable costs for this year, set against our income from all bookings.
* We will refund every applicant pro-rata, with an appropriate proportion of the paid ticket price, so that the final balance for the year is zero.
* The maximum amount withheld would well below the £25 administrative amount written into our refunds policy – more in the region of £5.
* Ticket holders will also have the option of holding their balance over for 2021 (less the designated small amount mentioned). As 2021 should be a full bank holiday weekend, prices will be somewhat higher than this year, so a small additional sum will become due nearer the time.

Postponing the festival will obviously be a disappointing and frustrating experience for all of us – but these are extraordinary times.

The festival does have its reserve carried over from last year, so it would be in a good position to start planning for 2021. It would remain to be seen how much, if any, of the planned 2020 programme could be carried over (we already have confirmed performer bookings for 2021).