



# COVID Safe Industry Guidelines for Magicians

Version 1.2

Updated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

## Overview

This document serves as a “best practice” for Australian magicians working private events during COVID-19 restrictions; particularly where existing guidelines may appear to be unclear or inconsistent. These guidelines do not cover large events or venues such as festivals, theatres or cruise ships. In these cases, magicians should refer to the venue’s and/or organiser’s industry guidelines or COVID Safe plan. When in doubt, firmer guidelines should take precedence.

This is not a COVID Safe plan. Individual magicians, however, are welcome to use this document to inform their COVID Safe plans.

These guidelines were created by David Chandler, Dan Bingham, and Adam Mada, on behalf of the Australian Institute of Magic, for working magicians in Australia. They were primarily informed by Victorian State guidelines for Hospitality, and for Outdoor Entertainment, Attractions and Experiences.

## Taking Bookings: Things to Consider

Before booking and/or performing at an event, a magician should:

- Confirm with the event organiser whether they count as a guest or as an employee; concerning the total number of guests/attendees allowed.
- Consider whether any magic routines require audience members to physically interact, or whether it is just preferred practice.
- Check whether the venue or organiser requires the magician to do anything (such as a temperature check, or induction) when entering the venue before the performance. Expect to complete their contact tracing log (this could be digital, or analogue paper).
- Ensure they bring their own hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes.

## Wearing Masks

The requirement to wear masks both indoors and outdoors varies from state to state. Whether you are performing indoors or outdoors, magicians should refer to the most current mask guidelines for their state before performing.

If masks are not mandatory or requirements are unclear, magicians should have a mask easily accessible should they need to wear one.

## Social Distancing

For close up performing styles such as roving and table hopping, magicians should keep **1.5 meters** away from audience members.

For performances with a more clearly defined “stage” (such as birthday parties at a private residence), magicians should keep **2 to 3 meters** away from audience members. Particularly when working with children, event organisers should be informed that audience members will need to remain **2 to 3 meters** from the magician at all times.

*TIP: Sticking masking tape to the floor can clearly indicate the front of your stage, and is a good visual boundary that a child can follow.*

When performing “on stage”, magicians should avoid entering the audience and/or bringing audience members on to the stage as much as possible. If this is unavoidable, they should keep **2 to 3 meters** away from anyone else on the stage.

## Physical Interaction

As much as possible, do not physically interact with audience members. This includes positioning them on stage, high-fiving, hugging, etc.

Avoid having audience members touching props and equipment as much as possible. This includes having audience members holding props, signing or touching cards, and physically examining props.

When table-hopping, a magician should use a ‘push along’ table or music stand for their performance surface. This not only helps you to social distance but also limits your interactions with surfaces at the venue and discourages audience members touching your equipment.

## Hygiene and Cleaning

All props and equipment should be cleaned and/or sanitized regularly.

If audience members have held or used any props or equipment, the equipment should be cleaned or sanitised between performances.

When in doubt, props and equipment should be cleaned and sanitised.

## Record Keeping

It is up to the venue and/or event organiser to keep any records of attenders as required by state governments. The magician does not need to keep a separate record of all attendees, but they are responsible for maintaining appropriate Contact Tracing Records (ie: contact details of the person keeping the attendance log at each venue or event the magician attends).

Although not vital, it would be wise for magicians in “stage” situations to note the names of any volunteers used in the show as an extra precaution.

Particularly for roving performances, a magician should keep the “COVIDSafe” app open and running on their phone while they are at the venue.

## Conclusion

To follow these guidelines, a magician might find that they need to alter routines and adjust their performances from what they have previously done. By making these adjustments, magicians can find a way in which they can continue to perform, whilst keeping themselves and their audiences safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines are accurate as of 7th December, 2020 and will be updated as necessary to best align with state and national COVID guidelines.