

COVID-19 : cleaning the keyboard or organ bench

For anyone still able to practise in a building other than their own home, or under any circumstances where a keyboard (organ or piano) is shared, the following information may be helpful.

Important: never spray anything directly onto a keyboard! Even plain water will trickle where it should not go. Never use products containing bleach.

Wash your hands. It's best to avoid cleaning the keyboard, and clean your hands. Use hand sanitiser before and after your practice, and avoid touching your face in between. If hand sanitiser proves illusive, wash your hands before and afterwards, taking your own soap and towel with you if needed.

For historic keyboards, where the keys are made of (e.g.) bone, ebony or ivory, make up a solution of plain water with a little added soap, dampen a cloth with the solution and use with care.

For more modern instruments, Dettol spray (or other household disinfectant – see below – suitably diluted) can also be used on a cloth.

Allow five minutes for the treatment to work.

Check the label of your cleaning product. Viruses are not the same as bacteria, so 'antibacterial' products may not be effective. Choose a product saying 'kills 99.9% bacteria and viruses'.

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