

LIVE DMA MEMBERS' MEETING #10
COVID FAST TESTING FOR LIVE MUSIC EVENTS – 4th OF NOVEMBER, 2020

Representatives of the following organisations were present: Live DMA, Dansk Live, Fedelima, ASACC, NKA, PETZI, VNPF, LiveFIN, Club Circuit, MVT, KeepOn Live

This informal meeting focused on fast-testing solutions for live music events, and how some members have started to work on studies to implement this as a solution for organizing concerts and living life “with corona”.

Minutes of the previous meetings can be found [here](#).

1) INTRODUCTION BY LIVE DMA

- **RESTART-19: experiment in an Arena in Leipzig, DE**

The **University Medical Center Halle** (Saale, Germany) just published the first results of its [scientific study RESTART-19](#) that simulated the risk of infection of Covid-19 during large indoor events. Three different concert scenarios with a total of 4000 persons were tested in the QUARTERBACK Immobilien ARENA.

An overview of the key results:

- The total number of **contacts lasting several minutes is relatively low** during the event and can be considerably reduced through hygiene concepts.
- A higher number of contacts occur during **admission to the venue and in the breaks**. Thus, **planning** should focus on these aspects.
- Poor **ventilation** can significantly increase the number of people exposed to a risk of infection.
- Around 90 percent of the study participants are not put off by the idea of **wearing a mask** and are willing to continue to do so in order to be able to experience such events again.
- If hygiene concepts are adhered to, additional impacts on the pandemic as a whole are **low to very low**.

“The results are consistent with our hypothesis that the contacts that do occur at an event do not involve all participants. Therefore, events could also take place under specific conditions during a pandemic. The most important finding for us was understanding how crucial it is to have good ventilation technology. This is key to lowering the risk of infection,” says Dr. Stefan Moritz of University Medicine Halle (Saale), who led the study.

Link to the [official press release](#).

Careful: the RESTART-19 study was not scientifically validated by scientific peers, so no government or organisation can take these results for 100% granted.

- **Overview of existing fast-tests by IQ Mag:** <https://www.iq-mag.net/2020/11/shoot-for-the-moon-covid-testing-solutions-live/#.X6UvUIDjKMp>

2) SUMMARY ROUND-TABLE

Dansk Live / Denmark

Michael is presenting a research project that Dansk Live is preparing together with the Football association in Denmark on fast-testing as mitigation solution for large scale events. The research project is aimed to be done in cooperation with the Danish government. The goal of this study is to investigate on how to handle corona without putting society on hold and how to make best use of technology to put the level of contagion to a manageable level.

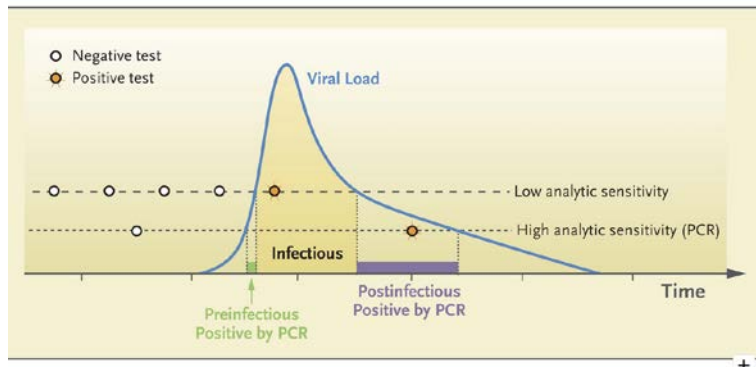
Dansk Live hopes to be able to support their festival members who urgently need information on how to proceed with the planning of their 2021 edition.

Although they are not that far advanced in the project, this is what they can say:

- The test is based on the idea developed in this article: (a good read to better understand what Dansk Live is exploring!)
https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2025631?query=featured_coronavirus
- Different testing methods exist: PCR tests (more sensible to the virus but also more expensive 30€ and needs a lab) and antigen tests (less sensible and cheaper: 5 dollars). Dansk Live want to focus on antigen tests: as they are cheaper, they can be used more often for surveillance.
- The idea is that people would do these tests more often, to see if they are infectious or not. If they are not, they can attend a festival (or other social or cultural event), with other mitigation measures (masks, etc) except physical distancing (which limits the capacity of a venue/festival).
- ➔ How can we use antigene tests to reopen society ? How can we do a study on this? ➔ The Danish government is looking into this
- ➔ Idea of the test is also to see how use of antigen tests can decrease the use of other mitigations measures (such as physical distancing which limit maximum audience capacity for example).
- The study would be very large: need to conduct it on 15 000 to 60 000 people to reach a critical level of legitimization.
- Study will cost 1 – 2 million euros. Should be financed by public and private funds.
- In the coming weeks, they will finish the principles of the study and then they start seeking finance from government & private investors.
- They try to test the screening process at the entrance of the festival.
- They will need to get ethical clearance on this as there will/might be infected people involved.
- Test will be done in different sections and scenarios including a section with physical distance, and a section without physical distancing.
- We need to learn a lot of things in this, so there will also be a lot to do besides this study that will be applicable for all event organisers.
- **It is a scientific study, so Dansk Live does not know yet if it will be effective or show possible solution.**

Tips from Dansk Live: this study is possible because they talked with the right people. The Ministry of Culture was of no use in this, they have rather addressed Ministry of Health (because it's a study about public health) and Ministry of Economy (to show how many people have jobs in the cultural and events sector, and to push for how important it is to keep these sectors active for the economy.). In the end,

they will also have to talk with the Ministry of Justice (who handles the police and other actors who will be involved in the study). Also: this study comes now as it is uncertain when the sector will be back again so it is good to make use of this time to think ahead on what will be possible in the future!



Source of graph and text: [article](#) New England Journal of Medicine.
Other resource on COVID tests shared by Dansk Live:
<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/resources/COVID-19/serology/Serology-based-tests-for-COVID-19.html>

“High-Frequency Testing with Low Analytic Sensitivity (=antigen test) versus Low-Frequency Testing with High Analytic Sensitivity (=PCR).

A person’s infection trajectory (blue line) is shown in the context of two surveillance regimens (circles) with different analytic sensitivity. The low-analytic-sensitivity assay is administered frequently and the high-analytic-sensitivity assay infrequently. Both testing regimens detect the infection (orange circles), but only the high-frequency test detects it during the transmission window (shading), in spite of its lower analytic sensitivity, which makes it a more effective filter. The window during which polymerase chain reaction (PCR) detects infections before infectivity (green) is short, whereas the corresponding postinfectious but PCR-detectable window (purple) is long.”

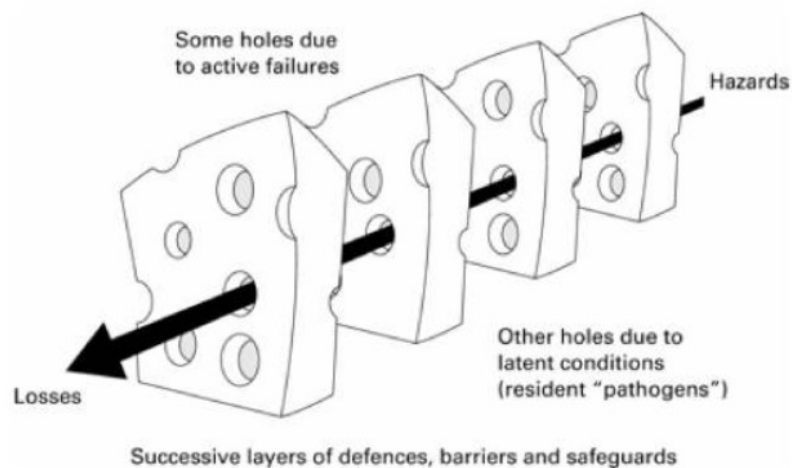
Danish government is also very open to look into other solutions that allow opening up society. This members’ round table showed that some countries such as Denmark and the Netherlands have entered the next level in managing the pandemic.

LiveFIN / Finland

- Science & cultural ministers will gather a group to discuss safety in events.
- Their governments is not very proactive in any study for the event sector, LiveFIN would need some documents from Dansk Live or other Live DMA members to present such a study possibility to her government
- In Finland, the sector needs to do the advocacy work as their government seems satisfied with the situation as it is.
- They want them to have the will to live with this virus one way or another without closing down and involve them in doing studies for alternative and more event-friendly mitigation measures.

Music Venue Trust / the UK

- Government wants to have a number of safety measures in place → “Swiss Cheese Method” (successive layers of barriers, defences and safeguards). Right now: HAND – FACE– SPACE → MVT is looking into rapid testing, in order to add new safety layers to the “Swiss Cheese” such as TESTING in order to avoid the SPACE layer).



The "Swiss Cheese Method", illustrated. Source: National Center for Biology Information.

- They also look into ventilation, led light cleaning UVC systems (they only work on flat spaces and they are most effective when everyone is standing), enhanced masks... to avoid physical distancing and thus limited capacities.
- But, the British government are focused on hand, face, space and are not open on testing new mitigation methods.
- The sector is far ahead of the government regarding alternative mitigation measures. MVT deplores that the UK government is not more involved or open to investigating these technological solutions.
- About testing: in theatres in the UK they have bulk bought 50.000 tests (for rehearsals, repetition), the price per tests 9 pounds, around 10 euros.

VNPF / the Netherlands

- VNPF is a bit passive on fast-testing as the event sector (Live Nation and alliance of "event makers" of which VNPF is part of) + Ministry of Health are already doing studies on fast testing.
- Fiedlab is a project started by this alliance which involves different ministries. It became an official part of the fast testing programme of the ministry: <https://fieldlabevenementen.nl/fieldlab-english/> .
- The government has to validate the tests in the end so it is better if they are involved from the beginning.
- The research questions of the experiment are very good and fit to our members' questions. (which rapid tests are validated? can the logistical parameters of these validated tests be applied to events? as a sector, can we possibly add quick tests to the programme? can the sector participate in the procurement of rapid tests, so that no competitive position is created? How can the result of a quick test be linked to an admission ticket or part of the admission to an event?)
- These studies are interesting for the government as this will allow the education & economic sector to stay open, the event sector is just a nice side effect to them.
- Yet, they are quite sceptical, as a lot of virologists say that it will take at least a year until rapid testing will be functional.

- Arne's advice: you need to get support to survive for 1,5 years, early reopening possibilities will be a bonus
- inbetween solutions for venues (live streaming, transformation of the venues' space into something else until concerts can happen, etc.) can be important to keep venues busy, but we have to wait anyhow until international touring will start again for real activity

Clubcircuit / Flanders

- festival federation in Belgium → they are working on fast testing, they say that they have contacts with other European organisations → they were not really willing to share info on this
- Apparently, Yourope gathered a task force that works with a doctor to see how different countries work.
- Venues in Flanders are in winter sleep and will have to be very careful with predictions about when the sector can start again. They will probably only come back in spring

ASACC / Catalonia

- Sala Apolo (Barcelona) were supposed to do a fast testing experience, but as the situation is getting worse in Spain, this project was postponed.
- Partners of the project were research teams from two hospitals in Catalonia
- The test should be for 1000 people during three hours in an enclosed space
- People will have to wear masks
- People can drink and eat during the concert
- Not more information yet as the project is on hold with the new lockdown

PETZI / Switzerland

- government published a new ordinance – transformation project, they basically tell us to reinvent ourselves, we are pretty pissed about it.
- It can be positive, but we are sceptical how this will really help our members. It can help venues to restructure a bit, but this is not what we hope for the venues!

<p>Request from members: overview of what happens in terms of rapid testing Live DMA COVID Map → we will include a testing chapter in there!</p>
