

## FAQ for Covid-19

**WARNING** : your instrument is personal: to avoid all risk of contamination, do not use anyone else's instrument and do not let anyone touch your mouthpiece, your ligature, your reeds, or even blow into your instrument.

### Is there a risk of contracting the virus using a new Vandoren reed?

At Vandoren there is no physical handling of the reeds during the production process. In addition to this we have reinforced sanitary procedures to protect our employees.

The only physical handling of reeds is for quality and musical control and these reeds are systematically destroyed immediately afterwards (they are put together with all other reed residues and used as fuel for our boiler)

Also, the individual packaging in flow-packs ensures maximum protection until the reed reaches you.

### Is there a risk of contracting the virus when buying a new Vandoren mouthpiece?

Although the production of mouthpieces is now extremely automated, they are finished and controlled manually.

Besides protection measures, which are used extensively in our factory such as the mandatory wearing of masks, gloves and all other measures put into place since the start of the pandemic, scientists agree that the covid-19 viral load becomes too low and thus cannot contaminate after a period of 72 hours.

In our factory, once the mouthpieces are cleaned and conditioned, and packaged there is always a period of several weeks before you receive your mouthpiece.

## How to clean a clarinet or saxophone mouthpiece?

### You will need:

- Cold running water
- Soap (liquid or a bar)
- Small cup of white vinegar
- Small cup of cooking oil
- A used soft toothbrush (never use an abrasive pad in case they damage the mouthpiece)
- A clean soft microfibre cloth or paper handkerchiefs (do not use kitchen towels as they are too abrasive)
- Adhesive tape and cork grease for clarinet mouthpiece

### Steps:

1. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water
2. Put on gloves and then put on protective glasses
3. Remove any mouthpiece cushion if necessary using a disposable and non-abrasive tool such as an old reed or a toothpick, then throw it all away in a closed bin.
4. For a clarinet mouthpiece, wrap the cork with adhesive tape by folding the tape over itself at the end to make it easier to remove later.
5. Moisten the mouthpiece with cold water, inside and outside.
6. Moisten the gloves with cold water and soap without rinsing
7. Rub soap on the inside and outside of the mouthpiece for a long time using the gloves  
Scrub the inside and outside being gentle around the baffle and facing
8. Rinse the mouthpiece with cold water
9. If there are any lime deposits (beak, baffle), dip the toothbrush in a cup of white vinegar and gently rub the affected parts. Repeat several times if necessary.
10. If there are any traces of glue (beak), dip the toothbrush in a little cooking oil and gently rub the affected parts.
11. Rub soap onto the mouthpiece, gloves and toothbrush again, rinse everything making sure that you remove all traces of oil and soap on the mouthpiece
12. Dry the gloves and the mouthpiece using paper handkerchiefs that you then throw away in a closed bin.
13. For a clarinet mouthpiece, remove the adhesive tape (do not grease the cork)

### **WARNING**

Never use hot water on an ebonite mouthpiece as this could result in discolouring the mouthpiece. For the same reason never put your ebonite mouthpiece in the dishwasher.

### **WARNING**

It is not recommended to dip an ebonite mouthpiece in white vinegar for more than 1 minute to avoid any discolouring.

### **WARNING**

To remove traces of glue from the mouthpiece cushion, it is not recommended to use ethyl acetate or acetone based dissolvent, especially on the insert of a metal mouthpiece, which might not support it.

**Never mix a solvent, including alcohol, with bleach as this could result in the formation of toxic gases.**