



COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY

4-15-21 CORRECTED

1. PURPOSE

Ensuring the health and safety of the membership in rehearsal and performance is one of the organization's most important responsibilities. As the impacts of COVID-19 are closely monitored, federal, state and municipal directives and recommendations continue to be followed.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS- CoV-2 virus. How best to negate, decrease and/or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in rehearsal and performance spaces is a priority. This includes activities in one or more of the following areas:

- reduce transmission among members
- maintain healthy operations
- maintain a healthy rehearsal and performance environment

2. SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can cause illness ranging from mild to severe and, in some cases, can be fatal. Symptoms typically include cough, fever or chills, and shortness of breath. Some people infected with the virus have reported experiencing other non-respiratory symptoms such as loss of taste. Other people, referred to as asymptomatic cases, have experienced no symptoms at all. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. More rarely, the disease can be serious or become fatal. People who are older or who have an underlying medical condition may be more vulnerable.

Symptoms may include:

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| * Cough | * Sore Throat |
| * Fever or Chills | * New Loss of Taste or Smell |
| * Shortness of Breath | * Congestion or Runny Nose |
| * Difficulty Breathing | * Nausea or Vomiting |
| * Tiredness/Fatigue | * Diarrhea |

3. HOW COVID-19 SPREADS

- A. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- B. Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths, noses or eyes of people who are nearby or may become airborne and inhaled into the lungs.
- C. Under certain conditions, transmission may occur at a distance of greater than 6 feet. These transmissions occur within closed spaces without adequate ventilation. Transmission may also occur if the infected person was breathing heavily during an activity such as exercising, singing, or playing an instrument.
- D. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has SARS-CoV-2 on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or, possibly, their eyes. This is not a common method of transmission.
- E. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (i.e., experiencing fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath).

4. PREVENTION & PRECAUTIONS

- A. Get Vaccinated
 - Get a COVID vaccination as soon as its available
- B. Wear a Mask
 - Face masks must be worn when in close proximity (6 feet or less) of another person.
 - Masks must cover nose and mouth.
- C. Implement Social Distancing
 - Practice social distancing by avoiding large gatherings and maintaining distance approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.
 - Do not convene meetings in numbers that exceed State and Local health regulations.
- D. Wash your hands often. Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Practice thorough hand washing
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - Always wash hands when they are visibly soiled.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Ensure hand hygiene supplies (I.e. hand soap, hand sanitizer) are readily available.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- E. Clean and disinfect.
 - Increased frequency of cleaning with disinfectants is recommended.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection.

- To disinfect, use products that meet criteria for use against COVID-19 and are appropriate for the surface.
- Avoid using another member's belongings and equipment if possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Individuals should bring their own beverages and food/snacks. Do not share water bottles, containers or food.
- Avoid using another member's phones, pencils and other equipment. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use

F. Monitor your health.

- Be alert for COVID-19 systems as described above.
- Individuals who have traveled internationally in the past 14 days should quarantine for 10 days.
- Prompt identification and isolation of potentially infectious individuals is a critical step in protecting members, visitors, and others.
- Self-isolation is mandated for any symptomatic personnel.
- Members who have signs and symptoms per CDC – (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify the Director and stay home.
- If a member is confirmed to have COVID-19, the entire membership will be informed about their possible exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by law. All members who attended the rehearsal or performance that the member with COVID attended should self-monitor for symptoms per CDC as described above .

5. REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE HEALTH & SAFETY PARAMETERS

A. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Each member must be vaccinated for COVID-19 and have received the second dose at least two weeks prior to participating in his/her first rehearsal/performance. A member receiving the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine must have done so two weeks prior to his/her first rehearsal/performance.

(Beginning on April 13, any Pennsylvanian age 16 and older who wants to schedule an appointment for the COVID vaccination may do so within the new open enrollment program. Residents of Allegheny County may schedule a vaccination through the following website if they wish: <https://vax4.alleghenycounty.us/patient/s/> Also, we understand that many vaccination sites in Ohio near many of our members who live in Beaver or western Allegheny county are accepting appointments from PA.)

B. PROCEDURES AT REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES

1. Chairs will be spaced apart and angled out toward the audience as much as practical depending on the number of members participating and the size of the stage at each rehearsal/performance venue. Members are welcome to bring their own disinfectant wipes to use on their assigned chair before sitting if they wish. How droplets are projected through the different instruments will be considered when placing chairs on site.

2. Members will wear masks upon arrival and at all times other than when playing. Masks must cover both the nose and mouth. Bell covers and masks designed to be worn while playing an instrument will not be required.

3. Members will maintain prudent social distancing practices while on site at rehearsals/performances.
4. Members are urged to practice thorough hand washing practices while on site and are recommended to bring and use hand sanitizer (comprised of at least 60% alcohol) as needed, especially if soap and water are not available.
5. Equipment and music should not be shared without proper cleaning and disinfection as appropriate along with the use of hand sanitizer as needed. Effective preventative measures can reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory aerosols and touch transfer..
6. Members will be issued music folders at their first rehearsal/performance that they will keep until the end of the summer season. Folders will not be collected after rehearsals/performances. Members are welcome to bring their own hand sanitizer to use after handling music if they wish, especially if exchanging or receiving parts.
7. Each member will use his/her own music stand.
8. Pencils will be available for member use throughout the season but, once distributed, will remain with the member and not returned.
9. Percussionists will coordinate their own health and safety practices for using and handling the instruments needed within the summer repertoire.
10. Brass instrument condensate will be captured in a container or on an absorbent cloth such as a 'puppy pad'. Paper plates are not recommended due to the inevitable wind present at outdoor sites. Used absorbent materials must be properly disposed by the user after rehearsals/performances. Do not abandon absorbent pads at the site. Practice appropriate hand hygiene each time after handling condensate and touching spit valves.
11. To reduce the risk of exposure, cleaning of instruments with saliva build-up should be done outside of the group setting directing the saliva into a disposable container/trash can. Perform hand hygiene after cleaning instruments.
12. Members should bring their own beverages from home. Do not share water bottles, containers or food.

C. MEMBER HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Members are responsible to monitor their own health. A member who shows symptomatic signs as described above or who have had close contact with a person suspected of direct exposure to COVID-19 shall notify the Director and not attend rehearsals/performances. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has adopted the CDC's revised quarantine exposure guidelines, including the reduction from 14 days to 10 days. When testing resources are sufficient, quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen (e.g., RT-PCR, antigen) tests negative and is collected on day 5 or thereafter and the person remains asymptomatic.

2. Members who are presumed or confirmed COVID positive who continue to have symptoms must remain quarantined until there is at least one symptom-free day.
3. If a member who attended a rehearsal or performance is confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19, all members will be informed of their possible exposure to while maintaining confidentiality concerning the name of the member involved as required by law. Possible exposure will include overall interaction with other members while on site as well as those who sat within 6-9 feet of the member involved throughout the rehearsal/performance.
4. Members traveling internationally shall follow the most current CDC guidelines. All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding a flight to the United States. After travelling internationally, get tested 3-5 days after returning **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days. Even if the test results are negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. If you don't get tested, it's safest to stay home for 10 days after travel.
5. Members and the organization as a whole will follow the health and safety guidelines established by the rehearsal/performance venue.
6. Each performance venue is responsible for establishing, monitoring and enforcing its own health and safety guidelines for audiences.

D. COMPLIANCE

By choosing to participate in any of the rehearsals and performances scheduled for the 2021 Summer Season, the member commits to following the health and safety parameters as stated above. Compliance concerns will be addressed on an individual basis by the directors.

5. COMMUNICATIONS;

As the COVID-19 situation progresses, updated information, guidelines and/or requirements applicable to individual members and the organization as a whole will be communicated to the entire membership.

STAY STRONG, STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY!