Directors, Producers, Conductors, Actors, Dancers, Musicians, Other Performers, Employees and Volunteers

Patrons

Auditions, Rehearsals, and Performances

Equipment

Requirements

Performing arts activities and venues must follow relevant mandates for social distancing, masking, congregating, and responding to confirmed cases of COVID-19 as outlined in the Director's Second Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating. Guidance on the order is available on the Responsible Restart Ohio: Social Distancing, Masking, and Congregating page at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

NOTE: Employers and businesses will likely be unable to determine whether or not employees and customers/patrons have been vaccinated. As such, they may choose to continue to require masking, social distancing, and/or other mitigation measures among all employees and customers/patrons, both vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Recommendations

Below are additional recommended best practices for performing arts activities and venues.

• If unvaccinated, strictly follow the Ohio masking mandate when out in public to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 and potentially spreading it during practices/rehearsals/performances.
• When possible, a face covering with a small slit for mouthpiece access should be worn by unvaccinated performers while playing an instrument. If face coverings cannot physically be worn while playing, a face covering should be worn over the chin and replaced during periods when not playing.
• To the extent possible, minimize cross-team contact between unvaccinated actors, stage managers, directing staff, music team, choreography team, creative team, and production staff.
• Pre-record chorus numbers to reduce the number of performers singing live onstage any one time.
• Identify individuals at higher risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19, such as those with asthma, diabetes, or other health problems, and take extra precautions to protect them.

• If parties are unvaccinated, family members should sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/family groups.
• The facility/venue should provide facial coverings for unvaccinated patrons who arrive without one.

• Modify the process of auditions, rehearsals and performances to maintain a minimum of 6 feet among unvaccinated individuals to the extent possible. When not possible, limit the amount and length of close contact as much as possible.
• Reduce the length of rehearsals to the extent possible.
• Conduct auditions, rehearsals, and performances outdoors when possible.
• Speaking loudly, singing, and playing some musical instruments may pose a greater risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19. Consequently, it is recommended that unvaccinated performers maintain social distancing during auditions, rehearsals, and performances, preferably more than 6 feet. When not possible, limit the amount and length of close contact as much as possible.
• Arrange indoor auditions/rehearsals in 30-minute blocks and afterward clear the room for enough time to allow the HVAC system to complete a minimum of one air change based on the system’s air change rate (consult with facility personnel).
• Arrange outdoor auditions/rehearsals in 30-minute blocks with a five-minute pause between blocks to allow aerosol particles to disperse.

• Whenever possible, equipment should not be shared, such as microphones and props. When equipment must be shared, it should be disinfected between uses.
• Clean and disinfect props, etc., between rehearsals and performances.
• Personal items in dressing rooms, etc., should have proper separation and should not be shared.
Facilities/Venues
- In “know before you go” communications to patrons, let them know that face coverings must be worn by anyone who is unvaccinated at all times, especially during intermission and in restrooms, except for allowable exceptions.
- Where a box office/will call window does not already have a glass partition between ticketing staff and patrons, install a physical barrier to maintain social distancing.
- Establish directional pathways using signage and floor markings/visual cues, etc., to manage the flow of patrons to promote social distancing at the box office/will call window, when entering and exiting the theater/facility, during the security/bag check, coat check, intermission, in and out of restrooms, at retail/concessions operations, etc.
- Monitor and limit the number of individuals in the lobby area and restrooms to enable at least 6 feet of social distancing or anyone who is unvaccinated.
- Adequate time should be allotted between performances to allow for proper cleaning and disinfection.
- Dressing rooms and other shared spaces should be cleaned and sanitized frequently. Unvaccinated individuals must maintain social distancing while in these rooms and wear facial coverings at all times.
- Discontinue use of self-service racks of flyers, brochures, etc., promoting upcoming performances, etc.
- Consider ways to schedule staggered ingress in order to minimize lines for security check, ticket scanning, coat check, etc.

Intermissions
- Consider not holding intermissions to minimize congregating/lines in the lobby, restroom, etc.
- If an intermission is held, announce at the start that facial coverings must be worn by anyone who is unvaccinated, congregating in the lobby is discouraged, and patrons should return to their seats as quickly as possible.

Musicians/Orchestras
- Because playing some musical instruments involves breathing deeply and expelling air forcefully, the risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19 may be increased. For unvaccinated musicians, performance space onstage and in orchestra pits should be arranged to maximize as much social distancing as possible.
- Unvaccinated onstage performers should maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing (and preferably more) from musicians who are also onstage or in the orchestra pit.
- Take measures to reduce the spread of air expelled from musical instruments such as installing bell/instrument covers.
- To enable any necessary social distancing, have musicians play from offstage instead of in the orchestra pit.

Concessions and Retail Vendors
- Follow Ohio guidance for restaurants and bars and for the consumer, retail, services, and entertainment sector.