

Protocols for Maskless Performances

The School of Music, Theatre & Dance requires a number of protocols to safely allow student performers to perform without masks. While the incidences of break-out infections is very low among vaccinated people, our protocols are designed to protect against asymptomatic spread among company members.

These productions include theatre, musical theatre, and opera (singers, dancers, and actors).

These protocols are intended to cover fully staged productions with multiple performances. Productions typically have three dress rehearsals, and either a run of four performances or a run of eight performances. Musicals that utilize body mics also have a couple of additional rehearsals to set sound levels for performers in relation to the orchestra.

1) Staging and Musical Rehearsals in a Rehearsal Room

A) All participants in the production must complete the ResponsiBlue daily symptom checker and must remove themselves at the first sign of symptoms.

B) Fully Vaccinated Individuals

*Must remain masked.

*Testing is not required.

*Social distancing is not required.

C) Unvaccinated Individuals

*Must remain masked.

*Must show weekly proof of testing with negative results from the free Community Sampling and Tracking Program. With negative results, social distancing is not required. With positive results, individual must remove themselves from rehearsal, and isolate according to instructions from UHS following current CDC and public-health guidelines.

2) Tech Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals, and Performances in a Theatre

A) All participants in the production must complete the ResponsiBlue daily symptom checker and must remove themselves at the first sign of symptoms.

The producer's Covid Compliance Coordinator will check each cast, crew, and orchestra member's ResponsiBlue at the stage door before every rehearsal and performance.

B) **Testing**

* Cast, crew, and artistic staff who will be backstage must undergo the testing sequence delineated below. This includes vaccinated people. Artistic staff who will remain in the front of house are not required to undergo the testing sequence.

In order to reduce the incidence of false positives, the testing must be taken at the free **Community Sampling and Tracking Program (CSTP test)**, which provides a saliva-based RT-qPCR test to participants.

See <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/prevention-testing-care/testing/sampling->

[tracking-program/](#) for hours and locations of test sites. Test sites are located at Palmer Commons, Pierpont Commons, and Ross School of Business. Typical hours are between 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday.

*Individuals who undergo testing will make a screen shot and then email their weekly test results to: smt-d-covid-test@umich.edu.

C) Sequence of Testing

* There will be a sequence of testing that varies according to the length of the run.

(1) Four-Performance Run

a) First Test

*The first test is to be taken 48 to 72 hours before the first rehearsal to be conducted without masks.

*If the first maskless rehearsal is to take place on a Monday dress rehearsal, then the test should be taken on the Friday before.

*If the first maskless rehearsal is to take place on a Sunday for a sound check, then the test should be taken either on the Thursday before.

(b) Second Test

*The second CSTP test is to be taken a week after the first test.

(c) Final Test

*The final CSTP test is to be taken 24 to 48 hours after the final performance. The purpose of this test is to verify the lack of any covid spread.

(2) Eight-Performance Run

a) First Test

*The first test is to be taken 48 to 72 hours before the first rehearsal to be conducted without masks.

*If the first maskless rehearsal is to take place on a Monday dress rehearsal, then the test should be taken either on the Friday before.

*If the first maskless rehearsal is to be a Sunday sound check, then the test should be taken either on the Thursday or the Friday before.

b) Second Test

*The second CSTP test is to be taken a week after the first test.

c) Third Test

*The third CSTP test is to be taken on the Tuesday or Wednesday before the second Thursday performance.

d) Fourth and Final Test

*The final CSTP test is to be taken 24 to 48 hours after the final performance.
The purpose of this test is to verify the lack of any covid spread.

D) Cast Members, Fully Vaccinated, with Negative Test Results

*May remove their masks while moving from their dressing rooms to the stage, performing, exiting the stage, and returning to their dressing rooms. If the time between a cast member's appearances on stage is less than 5 minutes (or approximate), they do not need to mask up during this short interval. They do not need to mask for costume quick changes.

*A cast member who warms up backstage must wear a mask.

E) Cast Members, Unvaccinated, with Negative Test Results

*Must remain masked at all times.

*Social distancing is not necessary upon receiving a negative test result.

F) Backstage crew, fully vaccinated, with Negative Test Results

*Must remain masked.

*Social distancing not necessary.

G) Backstage crew, unvaccinated, with Negative Test Results

*Must remain masked.

*Social distancing is not necessary upon receiving a negative test result.

H) Orchestra members playing in an orchestra pit

*Will not be required to observe these protocols.

*May be required to observe orchestral protocols.

I) Orchestra members playing onstage in proximity to actors/singers

*shall be advised as to protocols regarding the specific circumstances.

Submitted by Jeffrey Kuras, Paul Feeny, Eli Salembier, and Ben Thauland on behalf of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance

JK 9/27/21