



Guidance on COVID-19 Delta Variant

August 11, 2021

Currently, much of the nation is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 infections, particularly due to the more infectious and highly transmissible Delta variant. In response, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued new recommendations on mask wearing for fully vaccinated individuals tied to the rate of community transmission of the virus (High, Substantial, Moderate, Low). The Biden Administration then announced that unvaccinated federal workers will be subject to regular testing, masking, and distancing rules.

Given these concerning developments, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and our Expert Medical Advisory Board issue this *Guidance on COVID-19 Delta Variant* for our Members and employers.

The purpose of this Guidance is to help our employers adjust their COVID-19 safety protocols to these new developments. The updated Vaccination and Testing Scenarios in this guidance, now require mask wearing and testing of unvaccinated individuals even if more than 90% of the workplace is vaccinated. In workplaces where less than 90% of the workplace is vaccinated, our experts recommend that everyone, whether vaccinated or not, be tested regularly and wear masks in rehearsal and while off stage. As always, our goal remains to get our Members back to work *and* keep them safe while working despite the unique risks of what they do.

For more detailed information about vaccinations and the two types of rapid tests available, please see our earlier [Special Guidance on Vaccinations and Testing](#). In this Guidance, we focus entirely on new testing and mask wearing protocols. All scenarios assume the *AGMA/SDC Return to Stage and Performing Arts Playbook's* fundamental safety protocols remain in place, including, but not limited to sufficient ventilation, cleaning/disinfecting protocols, hand hygiene practices, and daily health screenings.

VACCINATION AND TESTING SCENARIOS

| Percentage Vaccinated ¹ | Testing | Risk Reduction |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 100% | No testing required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If everybody in the organization (performers, directors, choreographers, stage managers, instrumentalists, backstage, front of house staff, etc.) is fully vaccinated, artists can work without masks and social distancing (including partnering for dancers). If community rates are “Substantial” or “High” per the CDC, masks are highly recommended in rehearsals and when off-stage for individuals who will be in contact with unvaccinated individuals (e.g., children under 12 years old, immunocompromised family members, etc.) outside of the rehearsal room while unmasked: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view. |
| More than 90% | <p>Unvaccinated individuals must be tested at least once per week using PCR/Molecular or Rapid Antigen tests; however, the following testing schedules are highly recommended, especially when community transmission rates are “Substantial” or “High” per the CDC:</p> <p>A rapid PCR/Molecular test each day they work. OR A rapid antigen test 2-3 days per week, whether they come into work or not.</p> | <p>Vaccinated Individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated individuals can rehearse and perform without masks and physical distancing. If community transmission rates are “Substantial” or “High” per the CDC, masks are highly recommended in rehearsal and when off-stage: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view. <p>Unvaccinated Individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated individuals must be part of a testing program. Unvaccinated individuals must remain masked during rehearsals and when off-stage. Unvaccinated individuals with negative test results can perform without masks and physical distancing. |
| 70 - 90% | <p>All individuals (vaccinated and unvaccinated) must be tested using one of the following testing schedules:</p> <p>A rapid PCR/Molecular test each day they work. OR A rapid antigen test 2-3 days per week, whether they come into work or not.</p> | <p>All Individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All individuals on site must be part of a testing program. All individuals must remain masked during rehearsals and when off-stage. Individuals with a negative rapid molecular test can perform on stage that day without masks and physical distancing. Individuals with ongoing negative rapid antigen tests can perform on stage without masks and physical distancing. |
| Less than 70% | <p>IN-PERSON WORK NOT RECOMMENDED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR UNION REPRESENTATIVE.</p> | |

¹ Percentage of the whole organization – performers and all other employees working on site.