

As of June 30th, this document is no longer in force. It may be used as guidance.

Theater & Performing Arts and Events COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of June 1, 2021 Changes:

- Clarified rule changes for fully vaccinated individuals.
- Linked updated Department of Labor & Industries guidance.

Summary of April 21, 2021 Changes:

- For dance in Phase 3 outdoors, dancers are permitted to perform without masks.
- Adds language regarding summer camps.

Summary of April 7, 2021 Changes:

- Adds a requirement for masks and bell covers for woodwind and brass instruments.
- For dance in Phase 3, partner dancing and contact with multiple dancers is permitted, reduces the physical distancing from 10 feet to 6 feet, and permits dancers to perform without masks if the dance requires certain dance moves.
- Permits unmasked actors in outdoor theatre performances so long as there is no singing, all speaking actors use masks, and all actors maintain 6 feet of physical distancing.

Theaters and performing arts are permitted to operate, provided the general and discipline-specific requirements in this document are met and followed. The theatre and performing arts organization must adopt a written procedure for operation that is at least as strict as the procedures below and complies with all safety and health requirements.

General Indoor and Outdoor Theater and Performing Arts Organizations and Performing Arts Events:

This section includes guidance that all indoor and outdoor theater and performing arts organizations and events must follow. Additional requirements may also be required depending on the discipline.

Phase 1: Indoor: Private rentals/tours/performances for individual households of no more than six people are permitted. All individuals must wear face coverings. Maximum capacity is 25% of the venue or space.

Phase 1: Outdoor: Ticketed events only. Groups of 10 people are permitted but are limited to two households per group. Groups must always be physically distanced six feet apart and maintain six feet of physical distance from others. All individuals in attendance must wear a face covering. A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing is required between artists/performers and the audience. A maximum of 75 individuals including artists, crew, and audience members may be in the designated area. There is a two-hour time limit on all performances/events.

Phase 2: Indoor: Maximum capacity is 25% of the venue/space or 200 people, whichever is less. Groups with a maximum of six people are permitted. Each group must always be physically distanced six feet apart and maintain six feet of separation from others. All individuals in attendance must wear a face

covering. A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing is required between artists/performers and the audience. There is a two-hour time limit on all performances/events.

Phase 2: Outdoor: Groups of up to 15 people are permitted but are limited to two households per group. Groups must always be physically distanced six feet apart and maintain six feet of separation from others. All individuals in attendance must wear a face covering. A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing is required between artists/performers and the audience. A maximum 200 individuals including artists, crew, and audience may be in the designated area. There is a three-hour time limit on all performances/events.

Phase 3: Indoor:

- Maximum 50% capacity of the venue/space or 400 people, whichever is less. For venues larger than 100,000 square feet, the maximum number of individuals is 600 or 50% of capacity, whichever is less.
- Groups maximum-size of 10 people are permitted, limited to two households per group.
- Each group must always be physically distanced six feet apart from other groups.
- All individuals (ages 5 and up) in attendance must wear a face covering.
- A minimum 10 feet of physical distancing required between artists/performers and the audience if the artist/performer is wearing a mask.
- A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing required between artists/performers and the audience if the artist/performer if the artist/performer is not wearing a mask.
- There is no time limit on rehearsals/performances/events.

Phase 3: Outdoor:

- For smaller facilities, up to 400 spectators maximum allowed at 50% capacity. In order to exceed 400 spectators a facility must be able to accommodate over 400 spectators at 25% capacity and capacity must not exceed 9,000 spectators total. The guidance in "[Spectator Events](#)" must be followed for events with more than 400 spectators. Groups maximum-size of 15 people limited to two households per group.
- Each group must always be physically distanced six feet apart from other groups.
- All individuals (ages 5 and up) in attendance must wear a face covering.
- A minimum 10 feet of physical distancing required between artists/performers and the audience if the artist/performer is wearing a mask.
- A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing required between artists/performers and the audience if the artist/performer if the artist/performer is not wearing a mask.
- There is no time limit on rehearsals/performances/events.

Youth Theater and Performing Arts Day Camps: Youth theater and performing arts day camps must also follow Department of Health guidance for [Child Care, Youth Development, and Day Camps during COVID-19](#). Overnight camps must follow the overnight group summer camps and similar activities section of the [Outdoor Recreation COVID-19 Requirements](#).

Discipline-specific Requirements:

1. Dance and Movement:

Phase 1 Rehearsals: A minimum of 500 square feet per dancer is required. If there are two or more people per a barre, each dancer must maintain a radius of six feet of physical distancing and all dancers must face the same direction. A maximum length of 45 minutes per rehearsal session with 30-minute breaks between sessions is required.

Phase 2 Rehearsals: The maximum capacity is 25% of the room/venue/space so long as dancers remain 10 feet apart on the floor and 6 feet apart when doing barre work. All other requirements in Phase 1 must be followed.

Phase 3 Rehearsals:

- Partner dancing is permitted. However, there must be 6 feet of physical distancing maintained between dancers if the dance style does not include partners or multiple dancers.
- There is no time limit on rehearsals/performances/events.
- Masks are required to be worn by all dancers. If facial expression is critical to the dance, then only one dancer at a time may rehearse/perform without a mask.

Phase 1 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Prohibited.
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Dance and Movement: Phase 1 Rehearsals” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 1: Outdoor.”

Phase 2 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Must follow the “Dance and Movement: Phase 2 Rehearsals” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 2: Indoor.”
- **Outdoor:** Must follow the “Dance and Movement: Phase 2 Rehearsals” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 2: Outdoor.”

Phase 3 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Must follow the “Dance and Movement: Phase 3 Rehearsals” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 3: Indoor.” If the dance requires tumbling, stunts, or lifts, flying, then dancer(s) are not required to wear masks during the performance.
- **Outdoor:** Must follow the “Dance and Movement: Phase 3 Rehearsals” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 3: Outdoor.” Masks are not required while dancers perform.

2. Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams

Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rehearsals:

- **Indoor and Outdoor:** Solo singers and performers in a rehearsal setting may rehearse without a face covering, so long as they are at least 15 feet physically distanced from the pianist/accompanist and others. If a speaker decides not to wear a face covering, it is recommended that a Plexiglas 3-sided barrier is used during the rehearsal. The barrier must be disinfected after every use.

All group performance activities that involve singing require everyone to wear a three-layer surgical mask and maintain at least 9 feet (12 feet is recommended) of physical distance from others. Group singing/choirs are limited to no more than 15 individuals. Rehearsals may be held indoors for up to 45 minutes at a time with 30-minute breaks in between to allow for air exchange.

Phase 3 Rehearsals: Indoor and Outdoor:

- Solo singers and performers in a rehearsal setting may rehearse without a face covering but must maintain at least 15 feet of physical distance from the pianist/accompanist and others. If masked, a minimum of 6 feet of physical distancing required.
- Group rehearsal/practice activities requires all performers to wear a mask while practicing and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others.
- Group size is unlimited subject to maintenance of 6 feet of physical distancing.
- All other requirements in Phase 3 must be followed.

Phase 1 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Prohibited.
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 1: Outdoor.”

Phase 2 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Must follow “Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 2: Indoor.”
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A - Phase 2: Outdoor.”

Phase 3 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Must follow “Phase 3 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 3: Indoor.”
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Phase 3 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 3: Outdoor.” Theatre (not musical theatre) performances are permitted with unmasked actors so long as there is no singing, all speaking actors use microphones, and all actors maintain 6 feet of physical distancing.

3. Orchestra/Instrumental

Phase 1 and 2 Rehearsals: Indoor and Outdoor: All physical distancing requirements are section/instrument specific:

- **String and percussion instruments** must maintain a minimum of six feet of physical distancing.
- **Brass & woodwind instruments** must maintain a minimum of 9 feet of physical distancing, wear masks, and use bell covers.

- **Vocalists** refer to guidelines for “Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams.”
- All ages 5 and up required to wear masks.
- Rehearsals are a maximum of 45 minutes at a time with 30-minute breaks in between to allow for air exchange. All are required to wear masks.

Phase 3 Rehearsals: Indoor and Outdoor: All physical distancing requirements are section/instrument specific:

- **String and percussion instruments** must maintain a minimum of six feet of physical distancing.
- **Brass & woodwind instruments** must maintain a minimum of 9 feet of physical distancing, wear masks, and use bell covers.
- **Vocalists** refer to guidelines for “Phase 3 Rehearsals: Choral/Vocal/Opera/Musical Theatre/Comedy/Spoken Word/Poetry Readings or Slams.”
- All ages 5 and up required to wear masks.

Phase 1 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Prohibited.
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Phase 1 Rehearsals: Orchestra/Instrumental” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 1: Outdoor.”

Phase 2 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Must follow “Phase 1,2 Rehearsals: Orchestra/Instrumental” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 2: Indoor.”
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Phase 1,2 Rehearsals: Orchestra/Instrumental” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 2: Outdoor.”

Phase 3 Performances/Recitals:

- **Indoor:** Must follow “Phase 3 Rehearsals: Orchestra/Instrumental” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 3: Indoor.”
- **Outdoor:** Must follow “Phase 3 Rehearsals: Orchestra/Instrumental” requirements plus the general requirements in “Part A – Phase 3: Outdoor.”

Food Service and Retail: Food service, restaurants, gift shop, and other retail operations in performing arts venues and at events will operate according to phase-specific guidelines outlined in the “[Retail](#)” and “[Eating and Drinking](#)” in sections of the Healthy Washington guidelines.

Fully Vaccinated Individuals

*** Nothing in this section repeals any of the other provisions found in this document. Rather, this section creates limited exemptions for fully vaccinated individuals. ***

1. **Customers:** In accordance with the Secretary of Health’s [Order 20-03.2](#), fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering. A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).

Fully vaccinated individuals are also exempt from physical distancing requirements.

To implement this section, businesses may:

- a. Implement an honor system;
- b. Engage with customers to ask about vaccination status;
- c. Require proof of vaccination status; or
- d. Continue mandating the use of face coverings.

2. Employees: Follow the requirements from the Department of Labor & Industries [here](#).

Safety and Health Requirements

All employers have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers. COVID-19 workplace and safety requirements can be found [here](#).

Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the Washington Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).