COVID-19 FAQ for Arts Sector
Updated: 11_9_21

This guidance is meant to help theaters, galleries, arts nonprofits, and community-based organizations navigate mask and vaccination requirements. It was developed by LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) in collaboration with LA County Department of Arts and Culture and is provided for informational purposes only. Questions about your specific events and plans are best answered by representatives from DPH at (877) 777-5799. Arts and Culture staff are unable to review plans or provide specific guidance, but you can write to communications@arts.lacounty.gov and we can work with our DPH contacts to get you answers.

**When are masks mandatory for the patrons at an arts event or performance?**
Fully vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, masks are mandatory at all indoor public venues, and at all outdoor Mega Events of 10,000 or greater, except while actively eating and drinking in designated areas. Masks are recommended at outdoor events with fewer than 10,000. More info [here](#).

**Must performers, hosts, and MCs wear masks indoors? Outdoors?**
Performers, hosts, and MCs may unmask to perform indoors if they are fully vaccinated or tested at least twice weekly. They may also unmask outdoors. Before and after performances, these individuals must be masked. Ideally, they should also be at least 12 feet from audience members. More info [here](#).

Note that the state requires mask-wearing "Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings." Community theater productions and events that consist primarily of youth performances may be considered "youth settings," and per state requirements masks are always required indoors, even when performing. More info [here](#).

**In a theater, gallery, arts nonprofit, and community-based organization, do patrons need to show proof of vaccination, or a negative test taken in past 72 hours?**
If your venue or organization is in the City of Los Angeles, proof of vaccination is required. The City of West Hollywood also requires a vaccine verification process at entertainment venues. Most other cities defer to LA County Public Health requirements, in which showing proof of vaccination or a negative test taken in the last 72 hours is recommended, but not required, for smaller venues (see chart on this [page](#)). You should always check with your city to see if there are added requirements beyond what was set by LA County Public Health.

**Where can I learn how to check patrons’ vaccine status (or a recent negative test) at my organization or venue?**
There is more info at this [business re-opening toolkit](#).

**Is there guidance for theaters, galleries, arts nonprofits, and community-based organizations that are considering a vaccine mandate for guests?**
Yes, in this [toolkit](#).

**When are certified COVID Compliance Officers necessary onsite?**
There is actually no compliance officer certification process required by LA County, although
additional training on COVID safety is always encouraged. COVID Compliance Officers, per se, are not required. That said, every venue and organization should have a point person or persons assigned to ensure there is a COVID-19 safety plan for staff, volunteers, performers and patrons in place and that it is being followed. These responsibilities include posting necessary signage and communication with patrons that aligns with LA County Public Health guidance, having a plan for follow up contact tracing in the workplace should a staff member test positive for COVID-19, and all other COVID requirements.

**Must participants in rehearsals—with staff but no public audiences—wear masks?**
Performers and participants in these activities should wear masks as much as possible or move the rehearsals outdoors. More info [here](#).

**Are children under the age of 12 allowed to attend our venue?**
Yes, children may be patrons at any venue that allows them.

- **For smaller indoor venues** (under 1,000), the only basic requirements for children age 2-11 are to wear a mask while indoors, to be healthy, and to not be subject to any isolation or quarantine requirements. Children 12 and older attending entertainment venues in the City of Los Angeles must show proof of full vaccination to enter beginning 8 weeks after their 12th birthday. (See LA City’s [Safepassla.org](http://Safepassla.org) for more info.)

- **Indoor mega events of 1,000 or more** are governed by LA County’s mega events requirements, in which anyone age 2 or older must show proof of either a recent negative test (within the last 72 hours) or full vaccination to enter.

**Which requirements should teachers of the performing arts follow?**
There are special requirements for schools and youth settings. Follow the LA County Health Officer Order [Appendix T1 for K-12 schools](#), starting on page 13 - SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PERFORMING ARTS: