

COVID-19 FAQ for Arts Sector
Updated: 3-3-22

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 (this line is for only businesses and agencies and not for the general public).

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?

Starting March 4, 2022, masks are no longer mandatory either indoors or outdoors for either vaccinated or unvaccinated patrons. Businesses can choose to retain their mask requirement for customers and employees. Audience members can choose to wear a mask when entering any public place. Note that Public Health still strongly recommends indoor mask use. Mask wearing by all indoors continues to be a safe, simple, and effective way to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID, and helps assure your event is inviting and inclusive for those with underlying health conditions. Masks are still required for everyone using public transit, healthcare settings, shelters for people experiencing homelessness as well as certain other settings, per federal and state requirements.

Must performers, hosts, and MCs wear masks indoors? Outdoors?

Starting March 4, 2022, indoor masks will not be required for anyone indoors. Public Health still recommends mask use when indoors, when not performing. It is a safe, simple, and effective way to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID. Mask use is generally not needed for outdoor performances.

How close can the audience and performers be to each other?

Where possible, maintaining a gap of several feet between performers and audience can reduce the risk of viral transmission between the two. Twelve feet of space between audience is ideal but not required.

In a theater, gallery, arts nonprofit, and community-based organization, do patrons need to show proof of vaccination, or a negative test taken in the past two days?

Starting March 4, 2022, some of the vaccine verification rules in L.A. County have been relaxed. Vaccine or negative test verification will no longer be required at outdoor mega-events — such as at SoFi and Dodger stadiums, the L.A. Memorial Coliseum and the Hollywood Bowl. But vaccine verification or a recent negative test will still be required at [indoor mega-events](#) — events with more than 1,000 people, such as NBA games at Crypto.com Arena.

You should always check with your city to see if there are added requirements beyond what was set by LA County Public Health. As of 3/2/22, LA City still requires many arts and culture organizations such as museums and performance venues to verify vaccination status of everyone age 12 and older — see [SafePassLA.org](https://www.safepassla.org). West Hollywood requires [proof of vaccination](#) to enter some facilities such as restaurants.

When is an event considered to be a Mega Event?

Mega Events include indoor events with more than 1,000 attendees and outdoor events with more than 10,000 attendees. Find the requirements for Mega Events [here](#).

If I choose to check patrons' vaccine status (or a recent negative test), are there resources or guidance for 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](#).

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) in the City of Los Angeles,, Children 12 and older attending entertainment venues must show proof of full vaccination to enter beginning 8 weeks after their 12th birthday. (See LA City's [Safepassla.org](#))
- Indoor mega events of 1,000 or more are governed by LA County and the States 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 at SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PERFORMING ARTS. Masks are required at schools and childcare facilities unfilled after March 11, 2022 when masks will be strongly recommended for students, children, teachers, and staff regardless of vaccination.