

Theatre Safety Guidelines During COVID

Classroom Space

- Limit class sizes to an appropriate number of students to maintain physical distancing.
- Areas for students to stand should be taped out with gaffers tape.
- Balance numbers in room compared to available square feet to match CDC recommendations, and/or move classes to larger spaces (perhaps the cafeteria when not in use) or outdoors when appropriate.
- Hold classes in as large a space as possible (this may be an auditorium stage or black box, this may also be a cafeteria when not in use) or outdoors when appropriate.
- No physical contact should occur in the theatre classroom.
- Require students wash hands or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol when entering class.
- Require students and teachers to wear masks.
- However, regarding masks: IEPs should continue to be followed with all protocol and guidance to ensure all services and accommodations are met with fidelity. In this spirit, teachers need to be aware that some students may require exceptions/accommodation regarding the wearing of a mask or face shield that is contrary to school/district guidelines for the general student population.
- If and when possible, open windows for air exchange during and/or between classes.
- Where possible, teachers should designate one door as the entrance to their classroom, and one door as the exit to their classroom to avoid students passing by each other closely. Students should enter through one door and exit through a different door. No student should enter or exit the classroom in such a manner that their teacher cannot see them.
- Teach Technical Theatre classes in small groups and shifts with equipment in booth and shop, while other students work and study on other components with time to sanitize appropriately between uses.

Instruction

- Public domain scripts and materials and/or student-written scripts and materials are highly encouraged as they may be shared digitally.
- Students are discouraged from sharing any materials (pens, pencils, props, smart devices, costumes, scripts, handouts etc.)
- All equipment touched by a student and left in the classroom space needs to be cleaned between class periods. This includes props, composition books, and anything else touched by students.
- Work with campus administration to ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of materials to the highest extent possible (students should have their own scripts, their own costumes, etc.).
- Students should provide their own costumes when necessary for classwork or for a rehearsal or performance.
- Students will take their costumes home with them daily.
- When the student is finished using that particular item, the item must be cleaned. Teachers are encouraged to build cleaning items into their classroom routines with students at the start of the year and revisit cleaning procedures regularly.

Rehearsals and Performances

- Adjustments in the current circumstances will likely mean holding fewer technical rehearsals with students in costume than in the past.
- Lighting consoles and sound boards should be separated as much as possible in order to allow for students in the lighting/sound booth to be properly distanced.
- When proper distancing of light and sound boards is not possible, one student should be in the lighting/sound booth at a time.
- Students will need to be properly trained in cleaning procedures for lighting and sound consoles, as well as teachers/PAC managers.
- Students should be socially-distanced in taped areas when offstage. Students assigned to the costume crew should not assist in costume changes.
- For technical/dress rehearsals and performances (in class or otherwise), students should arrive in costume.
- Entrance pathways and flooring should be marked with gaffers tape for spacing to adhere to recommended social distancing guidelines.
- Performance: remove intermission and concessions to shorten performance time.
- Allow for digital ticketing. Programs could be digital or printed only center page and taped on the chairs.
- Skip seats or choose family groupings of up to 10. If student body invited, every third seat should be occupied.
- Staggered entrances and exits, delineate 6ft distance, release row by row.
- No crew or costumed students to the lobby following the performance
- Audience has no access to backstage, booth, and back of house spaces
- Students released in designated areas to parents, masks worn by students after performance