

Based on the most recent information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Maine, and building on the success of our COVID-adapted 2020 in-person programs, the following are the most up-to-date health & safety policies for the upcoming summer 2021 day-camp season.

Many things have changed – for the better! – from last year, with regards to what we all collectively know about the COVID-19 virus, how it is transmitted, and what precautions are the most effective in stopping its spread. There are some policies from last year that we have retired, and some which we have chosen to keep in place at STAGES.

Some STAGES policies may be more stringent than they are in other summer programs, your student’s school, and other locations, and we ask that you and your student commit adhering to these policies while participating in the STAGES summer program (even if your student is fully vaccinated), as **the health and safety of our students and community remains our top concern** as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve (and hopefully end!) in the months ahead.

### **GENERAL SUMMER 2021 COVID-19-RELATED STUDENT POLICIES**

- **Students must arrive to STAGES each day wearing a suitable, well-fitted, face covering/mask.**
  - *Outdoors:* Mask wearing is strongly encouraged outdoors. STAGES reserves the right to require masks to be worn outdoors, if sufficient physical distancing is not able to be maintained by students.
  - *Indoors:* It is the policy of the Woodfords Church that mask wearing is required in common areas (restrooms, hallways) of the building. STAGES will enforce this policy by requiring masks to be worn in all indoor spaces, with the following clarifications:
    - Masks may be removed when eating, if lunch is moved indoors due to weather. Physical distance will be maintained during this period of time.
    - There is the possibility of temporarily removing masks for indoor filming if, for example, there is one student in the scene, or a very small group (up to 4-5 students) with ample social distance.
  - Students who wish to remain masked for all activities at STAGES may absolutely do so. No student will ever be encouraged or required by STAGES to remove a mask for any purpose while at STAGES.
  - STAGES Staff members are required to wear masks at all times including during rehearsals and filming of student work.
- Students must observe reasonable physical distance (3-6 feet) while in the STAGES program. This policy will be particularly important indoors, and will be enforced by STAGES staff members. Summer Directors will incorporate this distance into the staging of the summer productions and/or may require wearing a mask during the filming/performance.
- Upon arrival, students will be greeted by a STAGES staff member for a quick temperature check and a few symptom questions. Any student with a fever of 100.0 or higher may not be cleared to attend rehearsal. Students who feel unwell should not come to STAGES. If a student feels/becomes unwell while at STAGES during the day, the parent/caregiver will be contacted for pick-up.
- Hand-washing/sanitizing will be required at arrival and dismissal, at regular intervals during rehearsals and filming, and after using the restroom. Additionally, students and staff may be asked to wash/sanitize hands at other regularly scheduled points during any rehearsal process.
- Students must comply with any COVID-19 safety instructions given to them by a STAGES staff member during the camp day.

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### A NOTE ABOUT SINGING

While vaccines and lower transmission have created a more optimistic future for singing together at STAGES, we remind our community that singing carries a extremely high risk of transmitting/receiving COVID-19. We will be continuing with our plan to sing and record music from home, for use in our final films.

There will be no large-group in-person choral singing at STAGES this summer. That said, we will begin to incorporate some in-person solo and small group (up to 4 students) instruction as needed. In these cases, students will be required to wear masks at all times, and to maintain a high degree of physical distance. The length of time of these lessons will be short (no more than 20 minutes at a time), and will take place outdoors, or in the STAGES classroom (which is well ventilated/air-conditioned). Indoor instruction will be limited to one or two students at a time.

**Any questions or concerns can be directed to [hello@stagesacademy.com](mailto:hello@stagesacademy.com)**

### OTHER COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY STAGES THIS SUMMER:

- All STAGES summer staff members are fully vaccinated.
- As was the case last summer, STAGES will conduct programming outdoors, as much as possible - including rehearsal, filming, lunch, games, social time.
- There will be no in-person audiences for any summer shows, with the *possible* exception of Twelfth Night, which *may* have a very small invited audience for the outdoor performance. This decision will be made soon.
- The capacity for each program has been lowered – no summer program will have more than 20 students (compared to pre-2020 enrollment limit of 40 students per mainstage program).
- No other programs will be taking place in-person, on-campus during the mainstage summer program, to limit the number of people on campus at any given time.
- Our costuming/wardrobe procedures remain modified to ensure the highest degree of social distance possible during fittings and costume changes.
- STAGES is committed to an ongoing rigorous approach to keeping our spaces clean and as disinfected as possible. We are supported in this effort by the Woodfords Congregational Church sexton/custodian.

### THANK YOU, FAMILIES!

Thank you for your attention to all of the information provided in this document. As the parameters of the pandemic continue to evolve, please note these policies could be updated at any time. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to seeing you at STAGES soon. **If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask by email [hello@stagesacademy.com](mailto:hello@stagesacademy.com)**