

As we continue to live alongside COVID-19 in daily life, STAGES Youth Theater strives to balance the safety of our community with a return to more normalcy in our day-to-day operations. We will continue to err on the side of caution as we enter the colder, indoor programming months of the year; however, we will be easing some of the precautions that have been in place in the summer of 2020. Those changes appear below.

The STAGES team has been exceptional at adapting to the constantly shifting pandemic parameters over the past 2+ years. If at any time STAGES feels it is unsafe to continue with in-person programming, we are ready to make any necessary accommodations and changes so each program can continue without interruption. We appreciate your patience and understanding at all times!

We thank you in advance for ensuring that your student adheres to all of the following policies, which exist solely to protect the health and safety of our students (and their families), our staff members and the rest of the STAGES community. We believe these measures ensure the highest likelihood of being able to conduct all of our programs on campus and in person during the coming school year.

The following changes are in effect as of August 25, 2022.

FALL 2022 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES:

Students must comply with all written and verbal COVID-19 health/safety instructions, and with reinforcement of these policies by a STAGES staff member during a STAGES program.

- **MASKING**

Masking continues to be an important and easy way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 – and other seasonal cold and flu viruses as well. We have updated our masking protocols to reflect recent practice in our program and within the programs of our peer youth and theater organizations in the Portland area.

For the time being, our indoor mask policy remains unchanged for the 2022-23 school year. Students and staff members (and anyone visiting the indoor STAGES spaces) must continue to wear a suitable, well-fitting mask that fully covers the nose and mouth while inside the building.

Audience members of all ages must also comply with the indoor mask policy when attending a STAGES performance or final family sharing presentation.

Masks may be removed *indoors* in the following circumstances:

- When drinking water or eating snacks
- (For Performance Ensemble students): While onstage for final performances

Regarding outdoor masking: Masks will no longer be required by STAGES participants when programming is taking place *outdoors*. Family members interacting with STAGES staff members *outdoors* at drop-off/pick-up are no longer expected to wear a mask (though family members should wear a mask if entering the STAGES building for any reason).

No student will ever be encouraged or required by STAGES to remove a mask for any purpose while at STAGES – including during performances. A student may choose to wear a mask at all times while participating in a stage program, or performing in a STAGES production!

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- **COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

All STAGES staff members and teaching artists for the 2022-2023 school year are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. There will be no COVID-19 vaccination requirements for students or audience members.

- **RE-CLARIFICATION OF AUDIENCE-SPECIFIC POLICIES**

STAGES will no longer require proof of vaccination for audience members attending STAGES productions. All audience members attending in-person STAGES performances or family-sharing presentations must continue to wear a mask at all times while in the building. Additional protocols may be developed when/if STAGES re-opens the lobby concession stand in 2023.

- **HAND SANITIZING**

Hand-sanitizer will be provided at arrival and dismissal, and at regular intervals throughout each program meeting.

- **CLEANING/SANITATION**

STAGES is committed to keeping our spaces as clean and disinfected as possible. We are supported in this effort by the Woodfords Congregational Church sexton/custodian. Air purifiers will continue to operate in STAGES spaces.

OTHER CHANGES IN STAGES COVID-19 POLICIES:

- STAGES will no longer conduct health screenings for students at arrival/drop-off. **Students who feel unwell should not come to STAGES. If a student feels/becomes unwell while at STAGES, the parent/caregiver will be contacted for pick-up.**
- STAGES will be mindful of physical proximity of people in our spaces, but **we will no longer strictly enforce social distancing in the rehearsal room.** Students will continue to observe some distance when in pre-assigned seats for classroom activities such as music instruction, and will continue to keep their items from home separated from everyone else's in their own labeled bins.

If a student requests additional personal space for themselves, that request will be respected and STAGES staff will ensure that personal space is given by both staff and other students.

THANK YOU, FAMILIES!

As the parameters of the pandemic continue to evolve, please note these policies may be updated again.

We are so grateful for your trust and support of your students (and the STAGES team) during this time, and we thank you for playing your part as we work toward the same goal – to safely provide a creative and social connection for your wonderful young people during the upcoming school year!

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask by email - hello@stagesacademy.com

We welcome your concern or feedback at any time.