Our Guiding Principles

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts’ policies and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 virus will be rooted in safety for our staff, our volunteers, our artists, and the public and patrons with whom we interact.

The primary goals for our response to the COVID-19 virus are to protect public health and continue Scottsdale Arts’ vital missions of arts presentation, event production, and community engagement.

Our plans will be consistent with ordinances from the city of Scottsdale and Maricopa County, as well as the State of Arizona’s Phased Reopening Model. Our plans will also follow recommendations from the federal government, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and the Scottsdale Arts Health Advising Team.

Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus will continue to evolve. As a result, our policies and plans will be appropriately updated as more information becomes available.

Performance Expectations and Guidelines

All staff, patrons, vendors, members of the public, and volunteers are expected to fully comply with the policies, protocols, and guidelines outlined in this document as part of the Center’s COVID-19 protocols. This document and summaries of protocol will be posted online at ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/covid-19-response and ScottsdaleArts.org/notices.

Testing Requirement and Vaccination Status

Staff and volunteers have had first-round full vaccination compliance since September 30, 2021, with minimal exceptions due to immunocompromised situations or deeply held religious beliefs.

Patrons may now attend performances without vaccination or negative test proof.

Mask Protocols

- Masking for staff is optional and only required if the artist mandates a stricter policy than House Policy.
- Masking for patrons is optional unless required by artists for the performance or event.
- If an artist mandates masks for patrons, patrons will be notified by email and will be given three days from date of notice to request a refund if they do not wish to comply with the artist policy.
Performance/Artist Protocols at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

Performance/artist protocols as outlined below are required for all groups utilizing the venue regardless if you are an artist, a support team, or a rental client.

The following will be provided for the safety of patrons and staff as part of our performance protocol:

**Backstage Protocols**
- Masks are optional unless required by artist protocol.
- If artist protocol requires masks, signage will be posted in visible locations that this is a MASK-ON DAY.

**Onstage Protocols**
- For those wearing face masks backstage, a holding space for masks is available off stage (both stage left and stage right) for artists to leave their masks when they enter the stage.
- The Center’s staff will not handle an artist’s face mask.
- Artists will be given disposable water bottles, and they will be responsible for disposal of all items after use. Signage in the green room and dressing rooms will communicate this expectation to artists.
- Emptying spit valves on the stage is prohibited. Musicians will need to bring their own materials for disposal of spit, reed soaking water, etc.
- Any rags, storage containers, or other items used to dispose of these materials will need to be removed from the theater and disposed of by the individual musicians or performers who used them.
- We prefer that artists travel with their personal vocal microphones. However, if the Center provides microphones, they will have disposable covers. However, if the Center provides microphones, disposable covers will be available for use (though not required).
- If disposable microphone covers are not available, the Center’s technical staff will provide instructions on where to put microphones after each use. Each microphone will be disinfected and cleaned after each use.
- Technical staff will wear masks on and off stage if required by artist protocol.
- Dressing rooms, green room, and all bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized after every performance.

**Facility Upgrades**
- All exterior and restroom doors of the Center are upgraded to no-touch entry systems.
- No-touch hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the building.
- The city of Scottsdale has retrofitted HVAC units in The Center and SMoCA with UV lights and/or ionization technology for safety. These technologies treat the air for particulates and COVID virus.

**Venue Capacities**
Virginia G. Piper Theater (853) and Stage 2 (137) have full-capacity seating.
Cleaning and Disinfection

Environmental service teams will clean office and workspaces based on CDC guidelines for disinfection and federal Occupational and Environmental Safety Office (OESO) protocols. Facilities management will also maintain hand sanitizer stations at major building entrances, elevator stops, and high-traffic areas on the Scottsdale Arts campus.

Staff and volunteers should also wipe down commonly used surfaces before and after use with products that meet the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) criteria for use against the COVID-19 virus and are appropriate for the surface. This includes any shared-space location and equipment (e.g. copiers, printers, computers, A/V and other electrical equipment, coffee makers, desks, tables, light switches, doorknobs, etc.).

Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized before each performance, after the performance begins, and at the end of the evening.

Personal Safety Practices

Handwashing

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands after touching your face.

Coughing and Sneezing Hygiene

Remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with greater than 70% isopropanol as the preferred form of hand hygiene.

Timeline and Process for Updating

Leadership and staff at Scottsdale Arts—along with medical professional advisors—continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation. When it is necessary to make a change to the current protocol, the following timeline/communication plan will be followed:

Public documents such as this one will be updated and will be posted on ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/covid-19-response and ScottsdaleArts.org/notices.

Upon protocol change, the following will be done:

- All ticket buyers will be informed of changes to any performances they will be attending.
- Pre-ticket purchase agreement language will be updated
- Signage will be updated.
- Staff will receive training and communication on any policy changes.

If a patron does not feel comfortable attending with the protocols as updated, they will be given three days from the date of email notice to request a refund.