

# VTC COVID RESPONSE PLAN

Vanguard Theater Company's Covid Response Plan is rooted in our belief that we can create a fun, nurturing, creative, and safe environment for our students and staff. Our top priority is to implement effective procedures to ensure the safety of all our students and staff members.

Our home, The Vanguard, has been fully gutted and completely renovated. Our air-conditioned space boasts a brand-new state of the art ventilation system, and we can ensure a clean and safe space. We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to update our covid policies.

These policies were prepared using guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), and New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

**Please note this plan is subject to change as state guidance is modified and will be finalized prior to the start of rehearsals.**

## COVID-19 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Policies and Procedures for Vanguard Theater Company are intended to sustain the appropriate behavior required to achieve excellence in the Performing Arts while observing maximum safety for your student and their peers. The following guidelines will be evaluated and updated regularly based on the latest CDC, NJDOH and NJDOE recommendations.

***Updated CDC guidance on masking is expected prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year and will factor into the final recommendations from the State of New Jersey for masking this fall. This guidance will be updated following that release.***

### ***Staff***

All staff have received detailed training during training on the proper Covid protocols, hygiene, and action plans. This ensures they can practice and enforce specific guidelines recommended by the CDC, NJDOH, and NJDOE. All staff are fully vaccinated.

### ***Arrival Procedures***

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before rehearsals begins - punctuality is essential to properly maintain our safety procedures. To minimize exposure, students will be directed into the rehearsal and performing space by staff to ensure proper social distancing. These policies are in place to facilitate safety and ease during this process.

Students must always wear a face mask upon entry into the building. On arrival, a no-contact health and temperature assessment will be taken, and hand sanitizer available. Any student with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be sent home and VTC will maintain documentation of students daily screening. The verbal health screening includes the following questions:

1. Have you experienced any flu-like symptoms?
2. Have you travelled internationally or nationally to a COVID-19 hotspot?
3. Have you been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19?

## ***Rehearsal Policies***

- All students are required to wear a face mask while in rehearsal (except when eating and drinking) and follow proper hand hygiene and social distancing
- There will be no physical contact between students or staff at any time and a social distancing between all staff and students will be preserved
- Water bottles and dance shoes are the only personal items allowed in the rehearsal space. Other personal items will be stored in a designated area. Students will not be sharing items Please send students with their own snacks, water bottle, and any other necessary supplies
- The bathroom will be designated for one person per use
- No visitors will be allowed at VTC Kids Rehearsals
- There will be no physical contact between students or staff and a social distance between all students will be preserved. Personal items should not be shared
- Students should pack at least one extra mask in a Ziplock, water, and a snack. All personal items must be stored in a backpack, tote, or string bag, labeled with the student's full name and personal water bottles are strongly recommended.

## ***Dismissal Procedures***

Please remember to wear a mask and continue social distancing.

## ***Infection Control & Monitoring***

### *Students & Families*

- Should check the temperature of their student every morning before coming to rehearsals.
- Per CDC, NJDOH, and NJDOE recommendations, vaccinated and unvaccinated students should wear masks while at rehearsals
- Students should stay home when feeling unwell
- Families should report exposure to a Covid-19 positive individual or anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms to the Education Director. Symptoms include cough, fever, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste, muscle aches, sore throat, diarrhea, headaches, and fatigue
- If a student is exposed to anyone with Covid-19 or Covid-19 like symptoms, the student will procure a Covid PCR test and self-quarantine until a negative test result is received
- The student will be allowed to return to the after providing a documented negative PCR Covid-19 test result

### *Faculty & Staff*

- Are fully vaccinated
- Will complete a health assessment every day before coming to rehearsals
- Will stay home when feeling unwell
- Will be subject to and follow all procedures regarding exposure to Covid-19 positive individuals or anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms applied to students

If someone gets sick at rehearsals with Covid-19 symptoms the individual will be separated immediately and moved to an isolated area to await pick up. The individual will not be readmitted to rehearsals until a negative PCR Covid-19 test result is documented and student families will be notified and given further instructions.

If a positive case is confirmed, VTC will notify state and local health officials as well as staff and families while maintaining confidentiality as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and further instructions will be provided.

***Cleaning/Safety Policies***

We are taking extra precautions to make sure that our space is cleaned and sanitized to prevent the spread of infection that include electrostatic sprayers that efficiently sanitize large surface areas in a matter of minutes. Staff will frequently sanitize rehearsal spaces, doorknobs, and other hard surfaces. Hand sanitizer dispensers are available throughout our space and hand washing will be encouraged throughout the day.