



VANGUARD THEATER COMPANY

Developing and producing original and reimagined theater dedicated to D.R.E.A.M.
Diversity Reciprocity Education Activism Mentorship

Vanguard Theater Company's Covid Response Plan is rooted in our desire to create a fun, nurturing and creative environment for our students and staff, while following CDC and local protocols around COVID. 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 space boasts a brand-new state of the art cooling/heating/ventilation system, an industrial air scrubber, powerful HEPA air purifiers, and electrostatic sprayers that contribute to 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), New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and the New Jersey Theater Alliance.

Our plan will be updated as we receive new recommendations from the aforementioned agencies.

COVID-19 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Rehearsal Policies

- All Vanguard participants must be vaccinated. Please contact us regarding medical exceptions
- All students are required to wear a face mask while in rehearsal (except when eating and drinking) and follow proper social distancing and hand hygiene
- Students will not be sharing items. Please send students with an extra mask, their own snacks, water bottle, and any other necessary supplies to be stored in a backpack, tote, or string bag labeled with the students full name. Personal water bottles are strongly recommended and personal items will be stored in a designated area.
- The bathroom will be designated for one person per use
- No visitors will be allowed at VTC 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

Staff

All staff have received detailed 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 and boosted, and will wear face masks during rehearsals.

Arrival Procedures

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before rehearsal begins, as punctuality is essential to properly maintain our safety procedures. Students and Parents/Guardians 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 will be 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?

Cleaning/Safety Policies

We are taking extra precautions to make sure that our space is cleaned and sanitized daily to prevent the spread of infection. Our daily cleaning procedure utilizes an industrial air scrubber and 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

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 should notify VTC and will procure a Covid PCR test and self-quarantine until a negative test result is received.
- If a student contracts Covid-19, the student's family will notify VTC immediately and the student will self-quarantine for 5 days from the day of diagnosis. If the student is asymptomatic after the 5 day self-quarantine, they may return and remain masked.

Faculty & Staff

- Are fully vaccinated and boosted
- Will be masked at all times
- 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
- In the case of a positive diagnosis, faculty and staff will be required to follow self-isolation procedures 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. A staff member will keep the individual company until a guardian arrives. All 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.