

Joy of Music

COVID Mitigation Strategies ~ UPDATED September 1, 2022

1. **Vaccinations and boosters:** We are still not requiring vaccinations to enter the building. The overall vaccination percentage in the community appears to have reached a relatively safe level to keep the infections mild for most people. However, there are clearly some people in the community who are very vulnerable to the COVID virus.
2. **Status of COVID:** Scientists are still learning about this new virus, which is now endemic. Although it is mild for most people, there are still 400 to 500 deaths a day in the United States (August 22). This is a very high number – currently, 10 or more times deaths from influenza. Some people are experiencing Long COVID, which can be debilitating to daily activities at home and work. This means we should still take precautions to protect the vulnerable among us. Of course, we will stay tuned into the rates of infection and hospitalizations, as well as how new variants may behave. A surge in serious infections may require a return to masking, distancing, etc.
3. **Masks:** Mask wearing is optional when in the building, except faculty and students are expected to wear a mask in their private teaching studio when either the faculty member or the student/parent requests it. This option also pertains to wind instrument masks and bell covers. They will only be required when either the faculty member or student/parent request they be used.
4. **Waiting in the Lobby:** Family members will be allowed to wait in the lobby. If you are coming into the building for a few minutes, masks are not required. However, if you wait in the lobby for an extended time, masks may be requested depending on the number of people in the area. We expect courteous compliance with this request.
5. **Concert Audiences:** We plan to continue requiring masks for audience members attending concerts, depending on the number of people present. Performers will not be required to wear masks.
6. **Ventilation:** We will continue to use the air purifiers, set on the third (high) setting OR keep the windows open, depending on the weather. The Shapiro Concert Hall has a robust ventilation system with MERV 13 filters and does not require the use of air purifiers or open windows.
7. **Please Stay Home if Sick!** Staff, faculty, students and parents should NOT come into the building if they are exhibiting any symptoms such as: sore throat, fever, cough or new loss of taste or smell.
8. **If you test positive:** Please check with us for the latest guidance. Currently, stay home for 5 days or until asymptomatic (whichever is longer) and then mask for 5 days after that. Wind instrumentalists and vocalists should wear masks for 10 asymptomatic days.