

LHAT Newsletter



LEAGUE OF HISTORIC AMERICAN THEATRES

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Masking and Vaccine Requirements: LHAT Survey Finds No Clear Answers

COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE NATION

COMMENTS ABOUT MASKS FOR PATRONS:

- Mask mandatory at 500 up, socially distanced mask recommended under 500
- Masks are required for unvaccinated.
- We are "strongly suggesting" that patrons follow CDC guidance and mask while in our facility.
- Masks indoors. No food or drinks allowed inside.
- We are strongly requesting as state law says we cannot mandate. Vast majority of our patrons are masked.
- This is changing every day - currently we recommend masks but anticipate by the end of the week we will make them mandatory
- Strongly encouraging masks
- Masks required if not vaccinated.
- In our venue, we follow the artist or producer requirement/request
- Because of a city mandate, yes, otherwise it would be "strongly encouraged" unless required by the show
- We are requesting mask usage but not demanding it
- Honor System: Masks for unvaccinated only
- We don't know currently

OTHER COMMENTS:

- We are sort of trying to follow what other theatres in the area are doing.
- Currently have programming and audience in BIG tent outside. We intended to cease in August but now plan to keep tent until Nov as weather allows "just in case". Since we are outside no masks were being worn until last week. Now 15% of patrons are wearing them as their choice.
- Looking forward to others' answers! We are going to be requiring vaccination for our performers and encountering pushback - not from the performers, but from our Board. Wondering how many others are working with internal stakeholders anxious to get back to "normal" at any cost.
- We haven't put the vaccination policy for patrons in place but are considering it for our upcoming Gala. Additionally, we haven't mandated vaccinations for our staff because everyone on staff currently is vaccinated by their own choosing!
- We are in our biggest surge of the pandemic and are very concerned that we may have to close again. Scary times.
- Although we are making this a venue-wide policy, many of our artists were requesting vaccination or testing anyway. We are implementing this policy in conjunction with three other performing arts venues in our city.
- We surveyed our patrons, and 95% are already vaccinated, and strongly support vac only to feel comfortable attending shows. I imagine most theaters will get similar results, with higher vac.
- 100% of staff got vaccinated voluntarily. If they had not, we would have required it.
- We coordinated our vaccination policy roll-out with the other major venues in our region to ensure our policies and language were uniform.
- As noted, this is an ever-changing situation. It is our intent to remain flexible with each artist, presenter or promoter and inform staff, stagehands, and patrons as early as possible.
- We have not yet decided completely on the proof of vaccine requirement for patrons but are leaning in that direction. Unfortunately, it will cost us as we will have to have security in place to have this plan in place, and of course, some are taking vaccinations so not "fool" proof!
- Several artists have requested more stringent recommendations. We have adopted a vac proof/negative test proof as our baseline, but some events may require more based on the artist.
- We are also accepting proof of neg Covid test within 72 hours in lieu of vaccine proof. We have our first big show next Thursday with these policies and I'm

While the CDC is discouraging large events and gatherings, most local and state governments are allowing theatres and other venue operators to re-open. In fact, 93% of LHAT member theatres report being fully or partially open with 73% reporting that they are fully operational at this time. Based on LHAT-CHAT conversations, we know that many of you are trying to determine what policies you should have in place concerning masks and vaccination requirements. We hope that knowing what other theatres are doing will be helpful in your planning process.

A mask policy for your staff seems to be universally popular with 73% of member theatres reporting some type of mask requirement for staff. However, that number drops to 41% when applied to requiring patrons to wear masks. Another 20% are strongly encouraging masks but are restricted by local and/or state governments to actually require masks. The remaining 39% of member theatres have no mask policy in place for patrons.

Vaccine requirements have theatres split somewhat evenly with 46% requiring proof of vaccine for entry and 54% not. At the staff level, those same percentages apply to theatres that will require vaccination for employment. However, those requiring proof of vaccines (or a negative test) for patrons are not necessarily doing so for every show. For nearly half, the vaccine requirement is only in place for shows where the artist/act has made that a requirement.

These percentages do not seem to change based on geographic or demographic characteristics with one exception. The number of theatres requiring vaccinations for employees increases to 60% (+14%) for theatres located in urban areas. For all other categories, there is no change based on rural or urban location nor perceived political environment.

On the LHAT-CHAT, many members have said they are working closely with other venues in their town / city / region / state to try to develop similar policies and language related to the restrictions they will put into place when they welcome patrons to shows. We feel that

announcement about how it is going to go.

We are still working through policy here but will be requiring proof of vaccine/negative test. Some of our biggest question marks are around renters and what we are requiring there. Especially renters such as youth orchestras which bring young people in, some who are not eligible for vaccine.

is probably sound advice.

LHAT FINDINGS AUG 2021

Fully Open	72.70%
Partially Open	20.78%
Closed	6.40%
Rural	32%
Urban	34%
Suburban	23%
Other	11%



	YES	NO	OTHER
Employee Masking	73%	28%	
Employee Vaccination/Testing	46%	54%	
> In Urban Areas	60%	40%	
Patron Masking	41%	39%	20%
> at all times	21%		
> until seated	20%		
Patron Proof of Vaccine/Test	46%	54%	
> all shows	20%		
> artist requested only	26%		

