

Hamilton-Gibson COVID-19 Protocols & Policy

In order to maintain a safe environment in support of the Hamilton-Gibson mission statement, the following Covid-19 Safety Protocol Policy has been adopted.

Face Covering Policy

1. Effective immediately, it is mandatory for all persons to wear face masks in any building being used by HG to conduct business. Performers may unmask during performances. Masks may be removed while eating or drinking. Masks must be available at all doors and at entrances to the theatres.
2. All persons engaged by HG for business purposes, as well as patrons, customers, and unpaid volunteers entering any building where HG is conducting business will be informed ahead of time or at time of entrance by HG staff or personnel (paid employees of HG, including those persons receiving payment for directorial or managerial work, and board members of HG) of the masking policy, either in written form (signs posted on entryways) or verbally.
3. Everyone, whether staff, personnel, paid employees, board members or volunteers of HG, will be encouraged to remind others to mask. "Ask to mask" is a reasonable request.
4. It is not the responsibility of any non-staff or volunteer HG member to enforce the masking requirement. If a non-staff member encounters resistance to the masking policy, he or she should ask for help from a staff member, if one is readily available. **The goal is to minimize confrontations. Be polite. Keep reminding others to mask.**
5. The artistic director, guest director or HG staff member in charge is authorized to stop the performance of any HG activity due to lack of compliance to the above protocol.

Notification, Isolation, & Quarantine Policy & Protocols

1. Directors will email HG production participants the board-approved COVID protocol prior to in-person meetings, and will review them in person at the initial meeting or rehearsal.
2. Any participant in an HG production who develops symptoms consistent with COVID (including but not limited to cough, fever, loss of taste or smell, etc. – for a full list of symptoms consistent with COVID, consult the CDC's list at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) **MUST NOT** attend any HG rehearsal or meeting and **MUST** get a COVID test and result before returning to the production.
3. If the test is negative, the participant can return to the production when feeling better.

4. Any participant who tests positive may not return until they have isolated for 5 days from the start of symptoms or from the day of the test if asymptomatic AND they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications AND their symptoms have largely abated. Upon return after 5 days, the participant must stay masked at all times (no eating and drinking around others, no performing without a mask on etc.) for a further 5 days.
5. If the test is positive, all fellow participants in the production MUST be informed and the production will be halted temporarily. Quarantine protocols will vary by vaccination status, as outlined below:

The following participants who have been exposed to a positive case are not required to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms for 10 days and get a test 5 days after the last exposure to the participant who tested positive. If symptoms present, the participant is required to get a COVID test and follow the protocols for notification and isolation protocols outlined later in this policy if the test is positive:

- Participants who are fully vaccinated and have received a booster;
- Participants who are fully vaccinated but the Moderna or Pfizer vaccinations occurred more than 6 months ago or the J&J vaccine occurred more than 2 months ago;
- Participants who are between the ages of 5 and 17 who are fully vaccinated; and
- Participants who have had a verified case of COVID within the past 90 days.

The following participants who have been exposed to a positive case are required to quarantine for 5 days after the last exposure, and then as long as the participant has not become symptomatic themselves, they may rejoin the cast (test is strongly recommended on the 5th day) but must stay masked at all times (no eating and drinking around others, no performing without a mask on etc.).

- Participants who are fully vaccinated but who received their Moderna or Pfizer vaccines more than 6 months ago or who received a J&J vaccine more than 2 months ago who have not received a booster; and
 - Participants who are unvaccinated.
6. For the purposes of calculating 5 days of isolation or quarantine, the first day of symptoms or if asymptomatic, the day of the test or the day of exposure to someone who has tested positive is considered Day 0.
 7. HG will rely on the honor system for participants to notify the director of their vaccination status and test results in the event of a positive case.

8. If halting rehearsals becomes necessary, HG will determine when the production may resume.
9. Social distancing and frequent hand washing are encouraged.
10. It is strongly recommended that all persons participating in any HG production be fully vaccinated against COVID and receive a booster shot when eligible.

*Adopted and Approved by the Board of Director, December 16, 2021
Updated January 7, 2022 to comply with new CDC guidelines*