PSO COVID-19 Protocol for Guest Performers

As of December 2, 2021, Allegheny County community transmission levels of COVID-19 are “high,” therefore: masks are required indoors and backstage access is limited to “essential” personnel, which only includes performers and support persons. Non-performing visitors are not permitted backstage (Board members, family members, agents, etc. unless necessary to support a performer). Community transmission levels are available at: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

The PSO maintains COVID-19 safety protocols, which are updated regularly per guidance from public health officials regarding COVID-19. This Protocol for Guest Performers (“Guest(s)”) applies to all guest artists, soloists, audition candidates, conductors, and anyone accompanying the performer to the worksite, e.g., personal assistants, agents, partners, spouses.

1. Backstage access for non-performing visitors
Backstage access for authorized, non-performing visitors is permitted only when Allegheny County community transmission levels at CDC “low” or “moderate” levels.

2. STAY home or in your hotel if:
(1) You are experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms (see “COVID-19 Symptoms” at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html); or
(2) You have been presumed to have COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19; or
(3) You have been exposed or potentially exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
   If you are unable to report to work, please contact your PSO contracting manager or host.

3. Vaccinations
The PSO requires all staff, musicians and Guests to be a “Vaccinated Individual” unless the PSO approves a reasonable accommodation (see Note 1). A Vaccinated Individual is defined as an individual who has (1) been fully vaccinated per CDC definition; (2) has received CDC recommended boosters within three months after the CDC’s earliest recommended date (currently five months for Moderna or Pfizer and two months for J&J); and (3) has submitted proof of such vaccination to the PSO’s Human Resources department at kmikolay@pittsburghsymphony.org or, for musician audition candidates, per instructions provided by Orchestra Personnel. Please submit your proof of vaccination no later than 90 days prior to first scheduled service (e.g., rehearsal) with the PSO.

4. Masks
- If Allegheny County community transmission levels are “low” or “moderate,” masks are optional unless required by an individual’s approved reasonable accommodation.
- If Allegheny County community transmission levels are “substantial” or “high,” masks are required indoors except for wind and brass musicians.

Note 1: Guests may seek an exemption—called an “accommodation”—from this Policy due to a disability or because of a sincerely held religious belief. If a Guest requires an accommodation, the Guest should immediately contact PSO Human Resources department at kmikolay@pittsburghsymphony.org to request and then complete a Request for Accommodation form. The PSO may request documentation to support the requested accommodation. After receiving a request for an accommodation, the PSO will enter into a discussion with the Guest to see if there are reasonable accommodations that might allow the Guest to perform with the PSO.