

PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY PREPARES FOR A SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES WITH INTRODUCTION OF VACCINATION AND TESTING POLICY

Audiences ages 12 and a half and older must show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative COVID-19 test for general public performances, in addition to mask requirements during the run of Annie. All CTC staff and artists older than 12 and a half are also vaccinated.

Minneapolis, Minn.— Children's Theatre Company is preparing for the return of live, in-person performances with the production of the beloved musical *Annie*, with performances running November 7, 2021 through January 9, 2022. As CTC opens, we are working to prioritize the safety of our audiences, artists, and staff.

Based on the most recent information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and in an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us—children 12 and under, for whom a vaccine is not yet available—**CTC is announcing COVID-19 vaccination requirements for all audiences 12 and a half and older, and mask requirements for all who attend a public performance at CTC through at least the end of the holiday production of *Annie*, currently scheduled to close January 9, 2022. Children between ages 3 and 12 and a half will not be required to be tested but will be required to wear a mask while at CTC.** Please read below for more details or [visit our website](#) to see our full safety protocols. Click [HERE](#) to read our safety protocols for Field Trips, and click [HERE](#) to read our safety protocols for on-site classes and camps. CTC's safety plan for in-person classes and camps this summer resulted in 0 cases of COVID-19.

CTC artists, backstage crew, and staff will comply with vaccination requirements and testing protocols to further ensure the safety of all guests and company members. At this time, all CTC staff members are 100% vaccinated.

PROOF OF VACCINE OR NEGATIVE TEST REQUIREMENT

In a commitment to ensure the safety of our young people and families, **CTC will be requiring all guests ages 12 and a half and older to present either proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours prior to attending a performance, or on-site class, camp, or special event.**

Being fully vaccinated means completing your **final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before your performance date.** Proof of vaccination or a negative test result must be shown when entering the building by showing your physical vaccination card, a digital representation of your vaccination card as a photo, or via the [Docket app](#).

Proof of a negative test result includes bringing a printed or digital copy of a **negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the performance start time, or a negative COVID-19 antigen test taken within 6 hours of the performance start time.**

Vaccination and Testing Resources for Families

- Schedule your free COVID-19 vaccination: <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/locations/index.jsp>
- Request a copy of your Minnesota vaccination record or find information about obtaining vaccination records from other states. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contacts-locate-records.html#state>
- Schedule a free COVID-19 test. <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/index.jsp>

MASK REQUIREMENTS

All guests and staff will be required to wear masks inside the venue, with the exception of children aged two or younger. This follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recent recommendation that everyone should wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status. Masks must be worn properly over both your nose and mouth. Bandanas and face shields are not sufficient substitutes for masks.

AUDIENCE CAPACITY

At this time, no changes have been made to our audience capacity.

CLEANING AND AIR FILTRATION PROTOCOLS

CTC has established **enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols**, and has invested in **clean air filtration systems, including MERV-13 air filters and IWave ionic air purification systems** to all HVAC systems to optimize the amount of clean, fresh air flowing through our building.

CONTACTLESS TICKETING

Mobile tickets will be issued and contactless ticket scanning will be available for all CTC performances. Patrons can manage tickets through their online account, with access to all upcoming dates and seat locations, the ability to request ticket exchanges, have tickets scanned on mobile devices without wasting paper. This information is accessible to patrons at: childrenstheatre.org/account

IF YOU FEEL SICK

We ask that guests stay home if they feel sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. Please contact the Ticket Office to transfer your tickets to another performance, donate your tickets, or request a refund.

What We're Asking Patrons to Do

- All audiences ages 12 and a half and older will be required to present either proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours prior to attending a performance
- Until all children have access to a vaccine, we will require masks for our audience, except for children under the age of 2. An exception will also be made for patrons when eating or drinking in designated areas.
- Monitor your health, and the health of your family. If a ticketholder feels ill for any reason, please do not come to the theatre.
- If a ticketholder must miss their scheduled performance for health reasons, or if any performances need to be cancelled for any reason, ticketholders will be rescheduled at no charge, have their money held on account to be used at their convenience, or refunded.

What CTC is Doing

- All CTC staff are fully vaccinated and will be required to wear masks when in our building. The exception will be our performers, who will not be masked while on stage during performances. All of our performers over the age of 12 have been vaccinated.

- All CTC staff will have a health screening that includes a temperature check prior to each shift. There will be a designated COVID-19 safety officer at each performance.
- All food and beverage must be consumed in designated, socially distanced areas to enable masks to be consistently worn in all public areas.
- Programs will be left at your seat rather than handed out to reduce the potential for germ spread.
- Door handles, light switches, and other high-touch surfaces will be sanitized frequently with CDC & EPA recommended disinfectants.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be available for patron use throughout the lobby and entrance areas.

What We've Already Done

- The CTC building has been fitted with MERV-13 HVAC air filters to trap more contaminants and maximize the amount of fresh air circulating in the building. CTC has also installed IWave ionic air purification systems to all our HVAC systems.
- All public spaces will be thoroughly cleaned nightly and between each performance, and staff will be sanitizing surfaces consistently throughout the day.
- Touchless sinks, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and toilets have been installed to reduce high-touch surfaces in our bathrooms.
- We've introduced mobile ticketing for all subscriber and single tickets, including rush tickets and lap passes. Tickets will be available in your CTC account three hours prior to performances and can be scanned off any mobile device. If you do not have access to a mobile device, you may request printed tickets when you arrive at the theatre.

Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is the nation's largest and most acclaimed theatre for young people and serves a multigenerational audience. It creates theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire for more than 250,000 people annually. CTC is the only theatre focused on young audiences to win the coveted Tony Award® for regional theatre and is the only theatre in Minnesota to receive three Tony® nominations (for its production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*). CTC is committed to creating world-class productions at the highest level and to developing new works, more than 200 to date, dramatically changing the canon of work for young audiences.

CTC's engagement and learning programs annually serve more than 93,000 young people and their communities through Theatre Arts Training, student matinees, Neighborhood Bridges, and early childhood arts education programs. ACT One is CTC's comprehensive platform for access, diversity, and inclusion in our audiences, programs, staff, and board that strives to ensure the theatre is a home for all people, all families, reflective of our community. childrenstheatre.org

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