



AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

## AGMA SPECIAL COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR PRODUCTIONS INVOLVING CHILDREN UNDER AGE TWELVE

September 23, 2021

In the past few weeks, the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and our Expert Medical Advisory Board have received many requests for guidance about productions involving children under age twelve (12) who are not currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. This is an especially urgent concern for AGMA signatory ballet companies which depend on successful *Nutcracker* runs to meet annual financial goals.

Many AGMA ballet companies are casting only vaccinated children, a best practice we encourage. We recognize, however, that this may not be possible for all companies.

Accordingly, this Special Guidance is intended for productions involving unvaccinated children.

For all other productions not involving young children, please refer to AGMA's [Guidance on the COVID-19 Delta Variant](#) that was released August 3, 2021. The masking, vaccination, and testing scenarios contained in the August 3 Guidance remain in place, especially as many parts of the country continue to experience high rates of virus transmission, hospitalization, and death from the Delta variant.

**For productions involving children currently ineligible for vaccination (under age twelve (12), the following controls should be in place:**

- 100% of the organization should be fully vaccinated and comply with daily health screening. This means *everyone* in the house (all company performers, artistic, administrative, and production staff, all venue staff, and all audience members).
- Everyone involved in the production must remain masked to the greatest extent possible, and children should be masked while performing, if possible. [See August 3, 2021, Guidance.](#)
- Unvaccinated children must be part of a testing program.

- During rehearsals, they should be tested at least once per week using a Rapid Antigen or PCR test. This should be increased to at least twice per week if the COVID transmission risk in the local community is 'High' (See CDC [COVID-19 Tracker](#)) or outbreaks are reported in schools the children are attending.
  - Additionally, during performances, a negative Rapid Antigen test is required for all unvaccinated children on *each* day they are performing (prior to or immediately upon entering).
- 100% of the audience should be vaccinated and masked. Audience members under the age of twelve (12) must be masked and show proof of a negative Rapid Antigen test on the day of the show or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of attending the show.

For more detailed information about vaccinations and the two types of rapid tests available, please see our earlier [Special Guidance on Vaccinations and Testing](#). In today's Guidance, we focus entirely on new testing and mask wearing protocols. All scenarios assume our [Return to Stage and Performing Arts Playbook's](#) fundamental safety protocols remain in place, including, but not limited to sufficient ventilation, cleaning and hand hygiene practices, and daily health screenings.

As always, AGMA's goal is the safe and successful return of our artists and our companies.