

The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company

COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan for the

2022 Production of *The Pirates of Penzance*

Introduction and Explanation

The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company (GSVLOC) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment and experience for cast, production staff, crew, volunteers, guests, orchestra members and the audiences for the 2022 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The GSVLOC has, therefore, developed the following COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan is administered by the GSVLOC Board, which maintains the overall authority and responsibility for enforcing the provisions of this plan, all GSVLOC participants are responsible for supporting, implementing, complying with, and providing recommendations to further improve all aspects of this plan. Only through this cooperative effort can we ensure everyone's health and safety.

All cast, production staff, crew and orchestra members, and volunteers (referred to as "participants") will be notified of these policies prior to their participation. Participation in the production will be considered an agreement to abide strictly to these policies, without exception. A significant failure to do so, as determined by the Directors, Stage Manager or the GSVLOC Board, will result in dismissal from the production.

This COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan will be revised as the conditions of the pandemic change, as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines change, and as the GSVLOC becomes aware of situations and concerns that the current plan doesn't address. The GSVLOC will make every effort to notify all participants, and when relevant, audience members of these changes.

Some elements of the Health and Safety Plan are dependent on the CDC-defined COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County. This is updated weekly to designate counties as Low, Medium or High level and can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

Participants will be notified by email of the CDC-defined COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County at the beginning of the rehearsal period and any time that the level changes.

Audience members will be notified of the CDC-defined COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County prior to each performance weekend (See Detailed Standards For Audience Members).

Standards For Cast, Production Staff, Crew, Guests, and Orchestra Members

COVID-19 Safety Officers

The GSVLOC Board is the authority and retains overall responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan. The Board, however, has designated individual members as COVID-19 Safety Officers, to serve as resources for and to ensure compliance of specifically designated segments of the cast, production staff, crew, orchestra members, and guests.

The COVID-19 Safety Officers are as follows:

Principals – Wendy Matsutani

Female Chorus – Anna Maher

Male Chorus – Alexander Gerchak

Production Staff, Backstage, Guests – Malka Key

Orchestra Members – Barb Hovey

The children of participants who will be backstage will be aligned with the COVID-19 Safety Officer representing the parent of the child.

Vaccination Status

All participants must have completed an initial vaccination series, plus a minimum of one booster, at least two weeks before participating in the production in any capacity.

An initial vaccination series is both doses in a two dose vaccination series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. The booster or boosters may be of any of the available vaccines.

All participants must provide proof of their vaccination status to the designated COVID-19 Safety Officers before their first participation in the production. Note: All cast members were required to do so prior to their participation in the spring 2022 production of *Ruddigore* or prior to auditioning for the fall 2022 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Participants may demonstrate their vaccination status with their vaccination card, a photo of their vaccination card, or with the Docket app.

Masking

All participants are subject to the rules of the venues in which the GSVLOC rehearses and performs, including Lake Harriet Methodist Church and Plymouth Congregational Church.

Masking is encouraged, but optional when the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low. When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High, all cast, production staff, crew, and volunteers will be required to mask at rehearsals through October 26 and during volunteer calls. Masking requirements will be updated immediately when CDC levels are updated, typically on Thursdays.

Regardless of COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County, masking will not be required in dressing rooms or the backstage hallway for the cast, unless required by church policy. The Board may designate specific areas backstage where masks are required.

Masking is encouraged, but not required, for the production staff, crew, and children of participants when the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low. The production staff, crew and children of participants will remain masked during performances when the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High.

Regardless of COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County, orchestra string players and percussionists will remain masked at all times during rehearsals and performances. Wind players will mask when not playing, but will remove their masks to play. Individual wind players may use an instrumentalist mask while playing if they wish to do so.

All are encouraged to use N95, KN95, or KF94 masks, but standard 2-ply cloth masks are acceptable. Surgical masks are acceptable if well-fitted, without gapping. Face shields, masks with a valve, gaiters, scarves, etc. are not acceptable.

The GSVLOC will provide an air purifier in the Green Room and in each of the two Dressing Rooms, as well as the two air purifiers in the orchestra pit area to improve air quality and circulation.

Masking is encouraged, but optional for cast members at the Sitzprobe, on Thursday, October 27th. Cast members will rehearse unmasked during the Understudy Run, on Saturday, October 29th, as well as for the Tech Week rehearsals, on Monday, October 31st, Tuesday, November 1st, Wednesday, November 2nd. Cast members will perform unmasked for the Preview Performance, on Thursday, November 3rd and all performances, from Friday, November 4th through Sunday, November 20th.

Test Reporting

When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low, participants will not be required to submit COVID-19 test results, unless required due to exposure or symptoms (see below). When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low, orchestra members will be asked to test weekly with a PCR or antigen test prior to performance weekends, but will not be required to submit test results.

When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High, all participants will be required to test and submit the results of their tests to their designated COVID-19 Safety Officer via the company's electronic reporting system, as outlined in this section. Testing will be required if levels published on the Thursday of the previous week were Medium or High. If levels move from Low to Medium or High the day before a testing deadline, participants will be required to take a single antigen test the day of the testing deadline.

Participants have two options for meeting testing requirements:

- A single PCR test taken within 72 hours of the testing deadline, or
- A pair of antigen tests, one taken two days before the deadline, and one taken on the day of the deadline (e.g. tests on Wednesday and Friday for a Friday deadline).

If a participant has taken a PCR test and does not receive the results in time, they may use day-of antigen tests each day of rehearsal or performance until the PCR test result is received.

The CDC recommends that people who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days test using antigen tests, rather than PCR tests, to avoid false positive results that can occur with PCR tests following an infection. Participants who know or believe that they have had COVID recently should test using antigen tests. A positive COVID-19 result on any PCR test will be treated as a positive COVID-19 result for the purposes of isolation procedures, even if the person tests negative on antigen tests.

Anyone who fails to submit a required test result will be unable to participate in that period of time's rehearsals and/or performances until required results are submitted.

Test Result Deadlines for Cast Members (If Required):

Test results must be submitted on the date designated below by 6:00 pm, regardless of whether the cast and relevant crew member is called that day.

Thursday, October 27

Friday, November 4

Friday, November 11

Friday, November 18

Test Result Deadlines for Children of Participants (If Required):

Test results must be submitted on the dates designated below by 6:00 pm if the child will be present backstage at any time between the testing date and the next testing deadline. If the child will be unexpectedly present due to an emergency, they must first take a day-of rapid test and have the negative results before arriving at the theater.

Thursday, October 27
Friday, November 4
Friday, November 11
Friday, November 18

Test Result Deadlines for Orchestra (If Required):

Test results must be submitted on the date designated below by 6:00 pm, if the orchestra member is playing that week. If an orchestra member is called in as a replacement, they must first take a rapid test and have the negative results before arriving at the theater.

Thursday, October 27
Friday, November 4
Friday, November 11
Friday, November 18

Test Result Deadlines for House Management Staff and Followspot Operator (If Required):

Test results must be submitted on the date designated below by 6:00 pm.

First expected date of participation (coordinate with COVID Safety Officer)
Friday, November 11
Friday, November 18

Test Result Deadlines for Production Staff (If Required):

The Director, Music Director, Accompanist, Assistant Stage Managers, etc. will follow the Cast testing schedule above.

Design Production Staff will test before arrival at the theater for Tech Week and Strike.

Sunday, October 30 (load-in)
Sunday, November 20 (strike)

If production staff plan on being backstage while other cast or crew are present during other times, they should coordinate with their COVID-19 Safety Officer (Malka Key) to confirm if required deadlines would change.

COVID-19 Symptoms

All participants are to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including the following:

- Fever, greater than or equal to 100.4° F
- Cough, or a cough that gets worse
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty/hard time breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Persistent Chest Pain or Pressure
- Extreme fatigue/feeling very tired
- New severe/very bad headache
- New nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose
- New confusion or inability to rouse

Response to COVID-19 Symptoms

If a participant is experiencing any of the above symptoms, they should stay home and inform their designated COVID-19 Safety Officer immediately or go home if they become sick in rehearsal or at a performance. They should get tested immediately and report the results of the test to their designated COVID-19 Safety Officer.

If feeling well enough, participants may resume rehearsal or performance following a negative PCR test or two negative antigen tests taken 48 hours apart. These participants should mask at all rehearsals until symptoms resolve. They may perform unmasked, but should mask backstage.

Response to Positive Test Results

Participants who test positive with an antigen test should test again with a PCR/molecular test to confirm results. Positive antigen tests, however, will be treated as presumptive positive results.

Participants who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate and are excluded from participation in performances for 10 days and must be fever and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to rehearsal or a performance.

Participants who test positive for COVID-19, are asymptomatic, or have a reduction in symptoms, and are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication may return to observe at rehearsal if they receive a negative antigen test 5 full days after the positive COVID-19 test result. They must, however, remain masked and distanced at all times for the remaining five days.

Notification of Other Participants

If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, their designated COVID-19 Safety Officer will inform other participants if they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in rehearsal or at a performance. Exposure within the company is defined as having been in rehearsal or performance with the person within two days before the person began having symptoms OR within two days before the test that came back positive was taken if the person is completely asymptomatic. In addition, the full company will be informed of the positive test and the date it was taken. Unless the person has requested that their name be withheld, the company will also be informed who tested positive.

If the person requests that their name be withheld, the identity of the person who tested positive will only be shared if there is a compelling need to disclose who it was who tested positive for COVID-19 to conduct accurate contact tracing and will be shared with the minimum number of people necessary for that purpose.

Quarantine Guidelines for Those Exposed

Exposure is defined as being in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19.

Participants exposed to someone with COVID-19 must test 3 to 5 days after the exposure with a PCR test or pair of antigen tests taken 48 hours apart, with the first antigen test taken at least 3 days after exposure.

Participants exposed to someone with COVID-19 may participate in rehearsal prior to obtaining the above test results as long as they do not develop any symptoms, but should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and wear a mask during all rehearsals for 10 days following exposure.

If performances occur before a participant has obtained the test results described above, they may perform if they have obtained a negative result on a single rapid test taken each day of performance. In this situation, participants should mask when offstage, but cast and wind players can perform unmasked.

If performances occur within 3 to 5 days of exposure or before the test results described above are obtained, participants, including cast and wind players, may perform if they have obtained a negative result on a test taken each day of performance. If this occurs, participants should mask when offstage.

In the case of ongoing exposure (e.g. household member tests positive), the COVID-19 Safety Officer, in conjunction with the board, will determine appropriate precautions. Participants who are especially concerned about any other exposure scenario and believe they need to quarantine should consult with their COVID-19 Safety Officer.

Orchestra Accommodations

The orchestra will consist of approximately 15 instrumentalists, rather than the GSVLOC's typical 30 plus, and will include a keyboard to supplement the missing instruments.

The GSVLOC will provide two air purifiers in the orchestra pit area to improve air quality and circulation.

The Music Director will determine if and to what degree the hallway and/or outside door should be open to improve air quality and circulation.

Refreshments

When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High, the GSVLOC will not provide refreshments during rehearsals to minimize the need for participants to remove their masks. Refreshments will be permitted at rehearsals when the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low.

Refreshments will be permitted backstage at performances. Participants who are otherwise required to mask may briefly remove their masks when actively eating or drinking.

Guests

All rehearsal or backstage guests (children, reviewers, etc.) of the cast, production staff and crew must be fully vaccinated and must provide proof of their vaccination status to the designated COVID-19 Safety Officer. There will be no exceptions to this requirement.

Post Show Greeting

The cast, production staff, crew and orchestra members will not form the traditional “greeting line” in the lobby after performances. All cast, production staff, crew and orchestra members with family and friends in the audience, however, may greet them in the lobby after the performance.

Masking while greeting audience members in the lobby will be required for all matinee performances. Masking is encouraged, but optional, for evening performances when the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low. Masking will be required for evening performances when the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High.

Greeting is strictly limited to the lobby area. Audience members will not be allowed into the “backstage area,” except for backstage tours arranged in advance with the Directors, Stage Manager or the GSVLOC Board. All these parties must be notified of the tour, and all involved must be masked.

Standards For Audience Members

Highlights For Audience Members

Masking Requirements:

When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low, masks will be encouraged, but optional for audience members for all Friday and Saturday evening performances. When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High, masks will be required for audience members for all Friday and Saturday evening performances.

Masks will be required for all audience members for all Saturday and Sunday matinee performances.

Audience members may briefly unmask while actively eating and drinking.

Audience Members with Symptoms:

Audience members with COVID-19 symptoms must not attend a performance. Audience members who report that they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and will not be attending a performance will be offered tickets to another performance, or their tickets will be refunded.

Detailed Standards For Audience Members

Masking

Plymouth Congregational Church encourages, but does not require visitors to mask.

At all matinee performances, audience members must wear masks at all times when in the lobby or theater. Face shields or masks with a valve, gaiters, scarves, etc. are not acceptable.

When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Low, masks will be optional at evening performances. When the COVID-19 Community Level for Hennepin County is Medium or High, masks will be required.

Masking requirements will be posted on the company's website, included in all ticket mailings and emails, and included as a note accompanying mailed tickets. It will be posted on signage throughout the theater.

The House Manager will send an email update to all ticket-holders the Thursday leading into the performance weekend with an update on mask requirements. Audience members purchasing a ticket by phone will be encouraged to provide an email address so they can receive updates.

Audience members may briefly unmask while actively eating or drinking.

If an audience member removes their mask, they will be reminded that they must wear their mask by the House Manager and/or ushers.

Concessions

Audience members may remove their masks in the lobby while actively eating or drinking during intermission at all performances. Audience members who wish to eat or drink in the lobby before or after performances where masks are required should social distance while doing so.

Audience members may bring their own bottled water and may drink it in the lobby and the theater. They may briefly unmask while actively drinking water in the theater. Food is not permitted in the theater.

Audience Members with Symptoms

Audience members with COVID-19 symptoms must not attend a performance. Audience members who report that they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and will not be attending a performance will be offered tickets to another performance, or their tickets will be refunded.