

# The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company

## Health and Safety Plan for the

### 2023 Production of *The Sorcerer*

#### Key Points

1. Stay home and get a PCR\* test if you have symptoms. (page 5)
2. Wear a mask for 10 days following a COVID exposure. (page 7)  
(See additional requirements for wind players.)
3. Isolate and then mask if you test positive. (page 6)
4. Get tested on scheduled dates. (page 4)
5. Submit proof of vaccination, including at least two COVID boosters.  
(page 2)
6. Follow additional masking procedures when COVID Community Levels are High. (page 3)
7. When in doubt, talk to your COVID Safety Officer! (page 2)

\* Use a home/antigen test if you had COVID in the last 90 days.

\* Insurance plans usually cover PCR tests if you have symptoms, but please confirm that your insurance plan does so. The GSVLOC does not reimburse testing expenses. If your plan does not cover PCR testing for symptoms, talk to your COVID Safety Officer, who can authorize antigen testing.

Check our [testing resource guide](#) for places to obtain tests.

# 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 2023 production of *The Sorcerer*. The GSVLOC has, therefore, developed the following COVID Health and Safety Plan in response to the COVID pandemic.

While the COVID 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 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.

## **CDC-Defined COVID Community Level for Hennepin County**

Some elements of the Health and Safety Plan are dependent on the CDC-defined COVID 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 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 Community Level for Hennepin County prior to each performance weekend (See Detailed Standards For Audience Members).

## **Notes on Testing**

The CDC recommends that people who have had COVID within the last 90 days test using antigen tests, not PCR tests, to avoid false positives that can occur with PCR tests following an infection. Participants who tested positive in the last 90 days should complete all required testing using antigen tests. Participants should return to using PCR tests once 90 days have elapsed. A positive COVID result on any PCR test will be treated as a positive COVID result for the purposes of isolation procedures, even if the person subsequently tests negative on antigen tests.

Minnesota ended free testing at community sites in January. Insurance plans usually cover PCR tests if you have symptoms, but please confirm that your insurance plan does so. The GSVLOC does not reimburse testing expenses. If your plan does not cover PCR testing for symptoms, talk to your COVID Safety Officer, who can authorize antigen testing. If antigen testing is being substituted for PCR testing, participants must use two antigen tests taken 48 hours apart.

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

## COVID Safety Officers

The GSVLOC Board is the authority and retains overall responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the Health and Safety Plan. The Board, however, has designated individual members as COVID 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 Safety Officers are as follows:

Principals – Wendy Matsutani [wmatsutani@gmail.com](mailto:wmatsutani@gmail.com)

Female Chorus – Mary Gregory [mj.gregory@usfamily.net](mailto:mj.gregory@usfamily.net)

Male Chorus – Alexander Gerchak [agerchak01@hamline.edu](mailto:agerchak01@hamline.edu)

Production Staff, Backstage, Guests – Malka Key [malka.key@gmail.com](mailto:malka.key@gmail.com)

Orchestra Members – Barb Hovey [bphovey22@gmail.com](mailto:bphovey22@gmail.com)

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

## Vaccination Status

All participants must have completed an initial vaccination series, plus a minimum of two boosters, prior to auditioning and 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 boosters may be of any of the available vaccines.

All participants must provide proof of their vaccination status to the Producer prior to auditioning or to the designated COVID Safety Officers before their first participation in the production.

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

## Environmental Precautions

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.

All rehearsals will have the option for actors to observe by video conference (e.g. Zoom) if they are unable to attend due to symptoms, but feel well enough to observe remotely.

## **Masking**

All participants are subject to the rules of the venues in which the GSVLOC rehearses and performs, including Saint Patrick's Catholic Church and Plymouth Congregational Church.

When masking, participants 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.

### **Regardless of COVID Community Level:**

Cast will not mask during the following times:

Sitzprobe Rehearsal: Cast members unmask will when singing and playing

Cover (Understudy) Rehearsal Run: Cast members will unmask when onstage

Tech Rehearsals (March 6 - 8): Cast members will unmask when onstage

Performances: Cast members will unmask when onstage

Cast members who are following the procedures for symptoms, exposure, or positive test scenario, described below, and who have determined that they are not required to stay home, may mask during the Sitzprobe, Cover Run, or Tech Rehearsals in consultation with their COVID Safety Officer. This does not apply to performances.

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.

### **When the COVID Community Level for Hennepin County is Low or Medium:**

Masking is optional for cast, production staff, crew, volunteers, and visitors, unless required due to exposure, symptoms, or positive test results, as detailed in sections below.

### **When the COVID Community Level for Hennepin County is High:**

All cast, production staff, crew, volunteers, musicians, and visitors will be required to mask, with the exception of cast and actively-playing wind players at performances and designated unmasked rehearsals listed above.

## **Scheduled Testing**

All scheduled testing requirements for the production must be met using either 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).

A participant who has had a positive COVID test within the last 90 days should use antigen tests.

If a participant has taken a PCR test and has not received the test results in time for the deadline, the participant must submit an antigen test result prior to each rehearsal/performance until the participant receives the results of the PCR test.

### Overlap of Scheduled Testing and Symptoms or Exposure

Because antigen tests are less reliable than PCR tests, participants experiencing symptoms within 72 hours of a testing deadline or during a performance weekend must follow regular procedures described in the Response to Symptoms section, including getting a PCR test, if covered by insurance or another program, even if they have already taken scheduled antigen tests. Participants with a known COVID exposure overlapping with a testing deadline or performance weekend are encouraged to use PCR testing if covered by their insurance or another program.

Insurance plans usually cover PCR tests if you have symptoms, but please confirm that your insurance plan does so. The GSVLOC does not reimburse testing expenses. If your plan does not cover PCR testing for symptoms, talk to your COVID Safety Officer, who can authorize antigen testing.

### Test Deadlines

Cast and crew must submit test results on the dates below, regardless of whether they are called that day. 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.

Orchestra members must submit test results on the dates below 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 negative results before arriving at the theater.

Children of cast and crew must submit test results on the dates designated below if the child will be present backstage at any time between the testing date and the next testing deadline. If the child is 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.

Tests must be submitted by the above groups by 6:00 pm on the following dates:

Thursday, March 2  
Thursday, March 9  
Friday, March 17  
Friday, March 24  
Friday, March 31

Design Production Staff will test before arrival at the theater for Tech Week and Strike. Their first scheduled test date may be adjusted in consultation with their COVID Safety Officer based on the first date they will be present. If production staff plan on being backstage while other cast or crew are present during performance weekends, they should submit additional test results accordingly.

Sunday, February 26 (load-in) or first date in theater  
Sunday, April 2 (strike)

### **Response to Symptoms**

Below is a list of COVID and flu symptoms:

#### **Fever or chills**

Temperature greater than or equal to 100° F

Temperature higher than the individual's normal body temperature

Feeling feverish

#### **New cough**

#### **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**

#### **Fatigue**

#### **Muscle or body aches**

#### **Sore throat**

#### **New loss of taste or smell**

#### **Nausea or vomiting**

#### **Diarrhea**

Headache

Congestion or runny nose

Participants must stay home, test, and inform the stage manager and their COVID Safety Officer if they experience any of the symptoms listed in bold above. They must use a PCR test unless they have had COVID in the last 90 days. Unlike participants awaiting scheduled PCR test results, participants with symptoms who are awaiting PCR results cannot return to rehearsal or performance with a same-day antigen test.

Participants who are at rehearsal must leave if they are exhibiting symptoms in bold. COVID Safety Officers have the authority to tell participants they must leave rehearsal based on presenting symptoms. Other company members who have concerns about another participant's symptoms should encourage that person to talk to a COVID Safety Officer or address their concerns to a COVID Safety Officer.

If feeling well enough and fever-free for 24 hours without medication, participants may resume rehearsal or performance following a negative PCR test. Participants who have had a positive COVID test in the last 90 days may use an antigen test. All participants should mask at all rehearsals until symptoms resolve. They will perform unmasked, but should mask backstage.

Participants experiencing headache, congestion, or runny nose, or who are feeling unwell in other ways should mask at rehearsal and consider staying home and testing.

## **Response to Test Results**

Both antigen and PCR positive test results are considered valid. Participants receiving a positive home test result do not need to confirm the test result with a PCR test. In the case of a positive PCR or home test, follow the procedures below.

Note: When counting days below, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms if symptomatic or the day the positive test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms started or the first positive test was taken.

### Rehearsals

Participants who test positive for COVID must isolate. Participants must be fever and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to rehearsal. They may return to rehearsal on Day 6 if they receive a negative antigen test no earlier than Day 5. They must remain masked through Day 10 unless they have two sequential negative antigen (at home) COVID tests, 48 hours apart, no earlier than Day 5 and Day 7.

### Performances

Participants who test positive for COVID must isolate. Participants must be fever and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to performances. They may return to performance on Day 11 or after they have had two sequential negative antigen (at home) COVID tests, 48 hours apart, no earlier than Day 5 and Day 7.

### More Severe or Prolonged Illness

Per CDC guidelines, participants must isolate through Day 10 if they experience moderate or severe illness (difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, hospitalization) or have a weakened immune system.

Participants who test positive on follow-up tests should continue to test every 48 hours. They may return to rehearsal after receiving a negative test result. They may return to performance or unmask at rehearsal after receiving two consecutive negative test results, 48 hours apart.

## **Notification of Other Participants**

If a participant tests positive for COVID, their designated COVID Safety Officer will inform other participants if they have been exposed to a person with COVID 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 in order to conduct accurate contact tracing and will be shared with the minimum number of people necessary for that purpose.

## **Guidelines for Those Exposed to COVID and Flu**

### **COVID**

Exposure in the community 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, including two days before the person's positive test or the start of their symptoms.

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.

Day 0 is the date of last exposure, and Day 1 is the first full day following exposure.

Wind players who are exposed to someone with COVID must stay home from rehearsals before March 2 until they have had a negative result on a PCR test taken on Day 5 or later. They may substitute an antigen test if they have had COVID in the last 90 days. Wind players who have been exposed and are not experiencing symptoms can attend performances, the Sitzprobe, and Tech Week rehearsals, following the scheduled testing procedures described in the Scheduled Testing section.

Participants who have been exposed to someone with COVID must mask at rehearsals through Day 10 except for designated unmasked events: the Sitzprobe Rehearsal, Cover Run Rehearsal, Tech Week Rehearsals, and Performances. At these events, they may unmask while actively singing or playing an instrument.

Participants other than wind players are not required to test following exposure unless they develop symptoms or as part of scheduled testing. Participants who develop symptoms must follow the protocol in the Response To Symptoms section, including staying home and testing.

In the case of ongoing exposure (e.g. household member tests positive), the Covid 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 Safety Officer.

### **Flu**

Participants who have had close contact with someone who is sick with the flu, or another contagious respiratory illness should mask during rehearsals for five days.

### **Orchestra Accommodations**

The orchestra will consist of approximately 20 instrumentalists, rather than the GSVLOC's typical 30 plus, and will include a keyboard to supplement the missing instruments.

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

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 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 is encouraged, but optional, when the COVID Community Level for Hennepin County is Low or Medium. Masking will be required for evening performances when the COVID Community Level for Hennepin County is 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.

# **The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company**

## **Health and Safety Plan for**

### **Audience Members for the**

#### **2023 Production of *The Sorcerer***

#### **Masking:**

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

Matinee performances: Masks will be required for all audience members, at all times for Saturday and Sunday matinee performances, in the lobby and in the theater.

Face shields or masks with a valve, gaiters, scarves, etc. are not acceptable. Disposable masks will be available for audience members at the box office.

Audience members may briefly unmask while actively eating and drinking.

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.

If an audience member removes their mask at a performance where it is required, 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 symptoms must not attend a performance. Audience members who report that they are experiencing COVID symptoms and will not be attending a performance will be offered tickets to another performance, or their tickets will be refunded.