

THE SAFE WAY FORWARD

Safety Protocols: Dancers

What You Need to Know

Safer workplaces during the COVID-19 pandemic require stringent and consistent safety protocols across our industry. These protocols are designed to ensure that performers and others are as safe as possible, while allowing production activity to continue. The detailed application of these protocols is subject to discussion with and approval of SAG-AFTRA. It must be noted that creative considerations are important, but they do not take priority over safety in the implementation of these protocols. The following protocols are applicable for all work performed, including rehearsals.

1. Testing

- a.** Due to the nature of extreme physical exertion in dancing, we affirm the principle that regular, daily testing for COVID-19 is essential.
- b.** Dancing requires close proximity, even for dances that do not have intimacy.
- c.** Protocols for intimate scenes should be followed for scenes that include but not limited to, touching. For example, a scene may require close proximity face-to-face but not necessarily involve kissing.
- d.** For projects meeting this criterion, one COVID-19 virus diagnostic (PCR) test must be administered to each performer and each person working in proximity to performers at any time. Results of such test must be received prior to the start of work, excluding pre-production activities, for which PPE can be worn and physical distancing maintained. The maximum elapsed time from the collection of the test sample to the conclusion of work is 72 hours.
- e.** Anyone testing positive will not be permitted to work until such time as they are cleared of infection.
- f.** Some projects may warrant an exception to testing, such as projects recorded remotely with performers working from home.
- g.** Employers are responsible for arranging testing, including the cost of testing.
- h.** Performer time spent testing is work time and must be properly compensated.
- i.** For productions exceeding the 72-hour total time from test sample to wrap, the testing protocols set forth in the “Return to Work” and “Safe Way Forward” documents are applicable.

2. Use of Masks

- a. Dancers are generally expected to wear masks, but because of concerns on the sustainability and the health and safety of engaging in physical exertion while wearing masks, a 15-minute paid break is to be allotted for every hour of work.
- b. Due to the level of physical exertion and because they are testing daily, disposable or cloth masks should be used rather than KN95 masks, which can prevent optimal airflow.
- c. In some cases, due to the creative nature of a particular scene, performers will not wear masks on camera. The use of masks should be discussed with dancers in advance.
- d. There should be a 15-minute paid break allotted for every hour of work, at which time fresh masks will be provided and the rehearsal space should be fully sanitized.
- e. When people are not working and not on camera, they should be wearing masks at all times. Masks should also be worn during breaks.
- f. We will periodically consult our epidemiologist and evaluate CDC guidance with the joint unions' experts for fully vaccinated people regarding mask-wearing.

3. Ventilation

- a. All areas in which dancing will be performed must have sufficient ventilation or air filtration to provide for 100% exchange of air or filtration of air between uses, based on manufacturer specifications for the ventilation or filtration equipment. Air filtration equipment must be MERV-13 rated or higher.
- b. We recommend open doors, open windows and fans for proper ventilation.
- c. We recommend producers choose rehearsal and performance spaces that provide better airflow

and distancing options.

4. Rehearsals

- a. Protocol coverage not only applies to work days, but is enforced for rehearsals and off-set rehearsals as well, including the use of a COVID-trained cleaning crew.
- b. When productions require multiple days, testing should be conducted on site and at the end of the work/rehearsal day.
- c. Testing protocols must also be followed for rehearsals.

5. Transportation

- a. Public transportation can be used if it allows for proper distancing and if PPE is provided by the production in advance.
- b. When transportation vans are used, vans will transport fewer passengers and all persons must wear proper PPE. Drivers will be trained to sanitize.
- c. Productions may need to provide transportation if testing is not available on site, and testing may need to be done more frequently for those coming to and from set.

6. Compensation

- a. Testing time and screening time is to be paid as per the "Return to Work" agreement.
- b. Sick pay is to be paid as per the "Return to Work" agreement.

7. Sanitation

- a. Sanitation guidelines should be followed as indicated in the "Safe Way Forward" document. Proper PPE should be provided and production should arrange for people trained in COVID cleaning standards to be on site to clean and disinfect common areas, bathrooms, surfaces,

objects and props.

- b. Protective equipment such as handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray and sanitizing wipes must be made available.
- c. When dancers are allowed their hourly paid 15-minute breaks, the rehearsal space and/or shoot location should be fully sanitized, inclusive of floors, barres, mirrors and any props.

8. Advanced Notice of Productions

- a. Advanced notice of productions, including AMPTP productions, should be provided so that we can review the safety protocols in place.
- b. Best efforts must be made to provide us with advance notification of rehearsals so we can ensure a COVID-trained cleaner is at rehearsal sites.

9. Limiting People in the Studio

- a. Limit the number of people in the studio by having individuals who need to observe do so remotely, and those in attendance must wear protective face coverings and practice physical distancing at all times.

10. Lunches

- a. Lunch to be provided on site; no walk-away lunches. This also applies to rehearsals.

11. Hair/Makeup/Wardrobe

- a. The SAG-AFTRA and IATSE joint protocols for Hair, Makeup, Wardrobe/Costume and Props should be followed, including the use of individual dressing rooms/private places for fittings, and disposable makeup tools and individual makeup bags.
- b. If dancers are expected to do their own hair and makeup prior to their call time, they are to be compensated.

- c. Towels should be properly disposed of and fully sanitized per COVID cleaning.

12. Casting/Auditions

- a. Whenever possible, auditions should be held virtually.
- b. If it cannot be virtual, performers must wear proper PPE, and there should be enough physical distancing to allow a space of 10 feet in between each individual.
- c. Auditions should be limited to one hour and every person should be moved out of the space before anyone else is brought in.
- d. Auditions should not lead straight into rehearsals.
- e. For mass auditions, schedules would have to be blocked to allow enough cleaning time in between.

Additional questions:
(855) SAG-AFTRA

To report to SAG-AFTRA issues regarding safety, call:

EMERGENCY HOTLINE
(844) SAFER SET / (844) 723-3773
24 hours, seven days a week

NON-EMERGENCY SAFETY LINE
(323) 765-2911, M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. PT
(voicemail is available)