

COVID-19 Policy for Participants of *The Nutcracker*

(Updated September 1, 2021)

This policy applies to all participants¹ of *The Nutcracker* at Shea's.

PRODUCTION

The Nutcracker is scheduled to be performed at Shea's Buffalo Theatre on Sat, November 27 at 7pm and Sun, November 28 at 1pm. Theatre rehearsals to be held on Wed, November 24 and Fri, November 26.

COLLABORATION

The Nutcracker is a collaboration of three not-for-profit organizations:

Neglia Ballet Artists **The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** **Shea's Buffalo Theatre**
and members of a local high school choral group.

The audience capacity is **3,000 patrons** per performance and there are **250+ participants** (Performers², Staff³, Volunteers⁴) who make this production possible.

The COVID-19 pandemic and variants are dynamic thus participation in *The Nutcracker* requires adhering to evolving policies to protect our community and the integrity of this production.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

All participants, who are aged 12 and up and who are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, **are required to be fully vaccinated⁵** by 11/1/21 and submit vaccination proof (Excelsior Pass or Vaccination Card) with date(s).

Vaccination information will be entered on an organization's participant roster but a copy will not be retained by the organization.

(Requests for Medical or Religious exemption for Performers must be accompanied by documentation and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.)

MASKING

All participants will be **required to wear masks** while at Shea's.

Performers² will be unmasked only while performing.

New disposable masks will be provided to performers upon exiting the stage.

TESTING

Before theatre rehearsals begin, participants may be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test (Dated within 72 hours and at their own expense). They may also undergo rapid testing upon arrival at Shea's on Nov. 25, 26, 27, 28. It's anticipated those rapid tests will be paid for by the collaborating organizations.

WELLNESS

Do not attend rehearsals or performances if you or someone in your household has COVID-19 or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Email your organization to alert them of your situation.

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(cont'd)

PRECAUTIONS

During the month of November, the following precautions are **recommended** to ensure the safety and health of fellow participants:

- Wear your mask out and about, even if it's not mandated.
- Avoid unnecessary travel, especially out-of-state, on airplanes, or to locations with high COVID-19 rates.
- Avoid large gatherings of unmasked people.
- Keep Thanksgiving celebrations small and local

UPDATES

As Erie County, New York State and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) amend protocols and mandates, this policy will be updated. The most current policy will be posted in the green room backstage and available online at <https://negliaballet.org/performances/the-nutcracker/>

Thank you for your cooperation to ensure this holiday tradition is a success!

DEFINITIONS

- ¹ **Participant** refers to any paid or unpaid person who is a Performer, Volunteer, or Staff with of one of the three organizations, or with the choral group.
- ² **Performer** refers to any paid or unpaid, professional or amateur, adult or child who has a ROLE such as cast member, dancer, musician, choral singer.
- ³ **Staff** refers to a person with a position paid by one of the three organizations, including contract work.
- ⁴ **Volunteer** refers to an unpaid position such as usher, photographer, back-stage / dressing room support
- ⁵ **Fully Vaccinated** – per CDC guidelines, an individual is considered fully vaccinated:
 - 2 weeks after their 2nd dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna vaccine)
 - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine)

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/>
New York State COVID information <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
Erie County Dept of Health <https://www2.erie.gov/health/>



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