



## COVID-19 and Illness Policy

Through a community of practice, Azimuth Theatre is committed to adapting our programming and operational plans to meet and exceed COVID-19 public health actions. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses, our board of directors, staff, artists, independent contract workers, and patrons will adhere to health and safety procedures and guidelines. These measures will occur within Azimuth Theatre's meetings, community engagements, training programs, and rehearsals and performances.

Azimuth has identified these policies as living documents – which may be adapted due to new information and/or in response to dialogue with members affected by these policies. We also want to acknowledge that the policies created could cause unforeseeable and unintentional harm. We are committed to open and active learning about our community's needs to enhance these policies.

### Azimuth theatre procedures and guidelines:

#### Vaccinations and testing

- Azimuth Theatre is committed to keeping our community safe. Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect our families, communities, and ourselves against COVID-19. We strongly encourage our board members, artists, independent contractors, crew, technicians, volunteers, and patrons to get immunized against COVID-19 and its many variants.
- All staff, artists, independent contract workers, the creative team, crew, technicians and volunteers will be required to adhere to daily self-assessments to determine if they have symptoms of illness, reporting any positive tests through our reporting system.
- The board of directors, artists, independent contract workers, creative team, crew, technicians, volunteers, and patrons will be provided adequate COVID-19 rapid antigen tests for the duration of engagement to be used if and when symptoms arise. Azimuth Theatre also encourages a test at the beginning of the engagement for extended in-person meetings, community engagements, training programs and during rehearsals and performances.

## Rapid health screening and privacy

- Artists, independent contract workers, the creative team, crew, technicians and volunteers will be expected to screen themselves for [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
  - If anyone is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive, they will be required to self-isolate for at least five days (or until symptoms resolve)
  - If the workers feel capable, they will participate through an online platform or some other form of distanced participation.
  - Should a worker be unable to complete their contract due to Covid-19 (or other debilitating circumstances), they will retain their total contract fees. They will be invited to participate in the replacement process if needed.

## Masking

- Although masking is no longer mandatory in most indoor public places, the use of masks will be encouraged until further notice.
- Azimuth encourages our community to wear a mask when in public spaces.
- Masking will be encouraged for audiences attending Azimuth productions to limit transmission from person to person. Azimuth staff will have masks available, free of charge. But, it is strongly encouraged that patrons bring and wear their own masks.
- Staff, cast, creative crew and technicians are strongly encouraged to mask when not able to adhere to physical distancing measures (like during set builds or at rehearsal).
- Guidelines and information on the use, wear and availability of masks is available [here](#).

## Enhanced cleaning and sanitization

- Azimuth Theatre is taking necessary precautions in reminding and encouraging all members to follow hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Recommendations include:
  - frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
  - Wear face masks where possible, and when face masks are not possible (during performance), cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.
  - avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
  - avoid sharing food and beverages.
- Spaces will be cleaned and maintained hygienically either by venue staff or by Azimuth staff. Responsibilities will be clearly defined before workers enter spaces.
- Maintaining individual workstations and cleanliness of personal items (this may include props). Cleaning will not be left to any member of the Stage Management team unless agreed upon by Stage Management.

- Azimuth or Venue Staff will mop floors at the end of each working day when in theatre spaces.
- Azimuth staff will follow procedures to clean high-touch surfaces (door handles, tables, chairs, etc.).
  - Staff will wipe down surfaces – particularly in shared spaces such as bathrooms and kitchen areas.
- Staff will also ensure that artists and crew have access to hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes when rehearsing.
- Azimuth productions and activities will incorporate health and safety measures, including:
  - optimizing workspaces, such as opening windows to maximize airflow (weather permitting) or using air filtration systems when possible.
  - to limit exposure, sharing space between production working groups (production team, performers, technical crew) will be limited, including staggered work times where possible.

## Travel best practices

- Azimuth Theatre will follow the [guidelines](#) surrounding travel and the requirements of domestic and international travellers.
- Azimuth will be implementing rehearsal best practices that limit the potential spread of viruses, which may consist of performers being asked daily to report any COVID-19 symptoms to the creative team.

## Communication and public health alerts

- Working groups will collaboratively identify health and safety practices which will then be respected both inside working hours as well as outside working hours. These working agreements are to provide awareness of individual health needs and to build a respectful working environment that fosters trust. Transparency and flexibility will be required and received with gratitude.
- All members will be asked to follow the guidelines articulated by each venue they work in.
- Azimuth's board of directors and staff will keep a close eye on changing public health orders and advice regarding COVID-19 and other illnesses.
- If there are updates, changes or advisory warnings that could impact programming or operational plans, the board and staff will act collectively to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all parties.
- Azimuth Theatre staff will contact all individuals impacted by schedule changes or alerts through email, phone or social media.
- If an artist or independent contract worker contracts COVID-19 and cannot perform, audiences will be notified about a postponement or cancellation of a performance.