

WAHAWK THEATRE
COVID-19 MITIGATION PROTOCOL

Prepared with guidance provided by:
State of Iowa
Centers of Disease Control (CDC)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)
National Federation of State High Schools Association (NFHS)

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The West High Speech & Theatre team reserves the right to maintain safety of its participants and volunteers from the COVID-19 virus. This document serves as our commitment to ensuring proper steps are in place to keep all involved safe.

This document is a living document and will be updated as deemed necessary based on guidance provided by:

- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Black Hawk County Health Department
- State of Iowa
- Waterloo Community School District

Any questions, comments, or concerns can be directed to the West High Speech & Theatre team, Mr. J'Kalein Madison at madisonj4@waterlooschools.org.

DISCLAIMER

The following COVID-19 Mitigation Protocol was made solely at the discretion of the Waterloo West High Speech & Theatre Team and its participants. This protocol is designed for all directors, coaches, student performers, audience members, and volunteers to remain safe during any performance and/or competition hosted by Waterloo West High (WAHAWK) Speech & Theatre.

This document is not regulated by any organization outside of Waterloo West High Speech & Theatre, nor mandated. This document follows all laws, regulations, and mandates set forth by the State of Iowa and the Waterloo Community School District.

The Waterloo West High Speech & Theatre team will work hard to implement and abide by these guidelines set forth in this mitigation protocol. Please know that the guidance in this document does not guarantee an environment that is entirely free of COVID-19.

LIMITED LIABILITY

Physical interaction with the public at large may pose some unavoidable risks due to COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Kim Reynolds signed the “*COVID-19 Response and Back-to-Business Limited Liability Act*” into law on June 18th, 2020. Hereby stating those in control of premises are not liable for civil damages arising out of an individual’s exposure to COVID-19, unless there is presence of malicious or reckless intent.

MASK AND CLOTH COVERING GUIDANCE

Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibited school districts from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property. As such, masks must be optional for students, teachers, and visitors.

-Iowa Department of Public Health

The CDC does provide RECOMMENDATIONS for guidance when it comes to mask wearing that we highly encourage all to reference when making the decision on wearing face coverings:

- Everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places
- People who have a condition or taking medication that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.
- You should not wear a mask if you are:
 - Children under 2 years
 - A person with a disability
 - A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety...

Center for Disease Control; October 21, 2021

PERFORMERS AND MASK WEAR

It is **NOT** mandated for participants to wear mask/protective coverings during their performances. Protocol will ensure that there is a sizable distance between audience members and the performers, and the performance space will be sanitized frequently.

SANITIZATION PROTOCOL

ONE PERFORMANCE:

If there is to be one performance in a performance venue, the venue will be sanitized appropriately prior to the arrival of audience members, performers, and crew. Immediately the space is cleared of all people, the space will be sanitized.

Sanitization will take place using products suggested by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from List N.

“EPA expects products on List N to kill all strains and variants of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used according to the label directions.” (EPA)

-Environmental Protection Agency

Because of ventilation, performances times, and capacity, audience members are **ENCOURAGED** to social distance if possible and wear masks for the duration of the performances.

Contest Performances/Multiple Performances

If there are multiple performances in one space, or there is a contest being held, sanitization protocol will increase in frequency.

Contest Center Sanitization:

During a sanctioned Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) contest day, Waterloo West High Speech & Theatre will take precautions in making sure performance centers are routinely sanitized.

Designated volunteers will be instructed to clear the room of all performers, judges, and spectators to commence sanitization. Rooms will be sanitized using verified EPA List N products and high touch areas will be directly sanitized.

The room will be properly ventilated (either through HVAC, opening windows, or fans) to help change the air.

The room will remain off limits to the outside public for the duration of this process to kill any viruses present in the room.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

It is encouraged to practice social distancing (6 feet distance) whenever possible, however, this can be challenging in a large group setting.

Auditorium seating will be partitioned accordingly in case of rising infection numbers in Black Hawk County. This is solely based on the idea of allowing people to enjoy theatre, but still provide safety.

On days of contest, we ask that schools attempt to stay within their own school while in the gymnasium (home base).

We encourage audience members to socially distance while waiting to go into a performance or eating concessions.

CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONING

The Waterloo West High Speech & Theatre team does not and will not make any decisions on cancelling/postponing performances and/or events independently. This decision must be made after receiving guidance from the Waterloo Community School District and/or the Iowa High School Speech Association. These organizations will provide the necessary communications to whether an event should be cancelled or postponed given certain circumstances regarding COVID-19.