

# A Midsummer Night's Dream Health Protocols

## *Northern Stage Summer Shakespeare Intensive*

As we all know, things are constantly changing these days but we wanted to give everyone auditioning a sense of how we think the summer will run based on the current situation. This document will be updated as we learn more and get closer to our first rehearsal on June 28th.

## Overview of Guidelines:

- Our performance will be done masked with the exception of a few carefully crafted unmasked moments.
  - No actor will be within six feet of an unmasked actor.
  - No actor will be asked to unmask if uncomfortable removing their mask for any reason.
  - The designated actor(s) will only perform unmasked during outdoor run-throughs, tech, and performance.
  - No actor will be put in a position where they are to be considered a close contact with any other actor (within 6 feet while masked for more than 15 total minutes in any given day).
  
- Our expectation for your time outside of rehearsal is that you will be following the Vermont State Guidelines (included below) and not participating in any behavior considered “risky” under these guidelines.
  - Ex: From one week before rehearsals start (June 21st) through our final performance we expect that you will be masked and socially distanced anytime you are outside your own home or with someone outside of your household.
  - We also expect that you will not travel outside of VT and NH during this time.
  
- The majority of Northern Stage’s education students and personnel are local to the Upper Valley, which straddles state lines but is very much one community. In collaboration with our local government and our medical partners at Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital, we have determined that those who reside on the New Hampshire side of the Upper Valley will be treated as in-state residents. With that in mind, all VT state guidelines will be enforced with VT and NH students alike, beginning 7 days prior to the first day of onsite work.
  
- Everyone must pass our health screening survey before they are allowed to attend any rehearsal or performance. [Here](#) is our current health screening survey for your reference. If you do not pass the survey you will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal or performance that day. We will have assistant directors understudying the play in the event that this happens during the run of the show.

- Our first priority is everyone's health and safety this summer, but this process will still be fun and community building and we are beyond excited to be working in person with you again!

## Vermont COVID-19 Regulations & Guidelines

Over the past year, Vermont has maintained strict COVID-19 restrictions in order to keep the population safe. As of March 4, 2021, the following regulations remain in place.

### **Travel**

Vermonters are advised against any non-essential travel, including within Vermont, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Anyone entering the state, including visitors and returning residents, must quarantine for 14 days or quarantine for 7 days followed by a negative PCR test. Visitors arriving to the state by personal vehicle may quarantine before arrival. All others must quarantine upon arrival.

Those who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine when entering the state, as long as it has been 14 days since receiving the final vaccine dose. Those who have recovered from COVID-19 or received a positive antibody test are still subject to quarantine guidelines.

### **Masking**

Vermonters and visitors are required to wear masks or cloth facial coverings over their nose and mouth at all times when in indoor or outdoor public spaces, where they come in contact with others from outside their households, especially in congregate settings, and where it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet. Exceptions to this mandate are limited to the following:

- When engaged in strenuous exercise or activity during which physical distance of six feet can be consistently maintained.
- For anyone under the age of 2, any child or adult with a medical or developmental issue that is complicated or irritated by a facial covering, or anyone with difficulty breathing. A person who declines to wear a mask or cloth face covering because of a medical or developmental issue, or difficulty breathing, shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition.

### **Gatherings**

All multi-household social gatherings are currently banned in the state of Vermont. In other words, Vermonters and visitors may not gather socially with anyone outside of their own household, whether indoors or outdoors, in public or private spaces. Exceptions to this mandate are limited to the following:

- Those who are fully vaccinated and received their final vaccine dose 14+ days ago may gather with one other household at a time, even if the people in the household are not

vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated but live alone may also gather with people who live in one other household.

- No-contact outdoor recreation activities (biking, hiking, walking, running, skiing, etc.) are permitted between households. However, all must remain masked and must remain at least 6 feet away from those outside of their household.

The following is not considered a social gathering: Contact for less than 15 minutes, all parties wearing masks, all parties remaining at least 6 feet apart. Contact with members of other households is also permitted in settings that continue to operate – schools, workplaces, retail stores, close contact businesses, etc. – as long as all required health protocols are followed.

For more information regarding Vermont state requirements pertaining to businesses and the arts, visit: [Vermont Stay Safe, Be Smart Order.](#)