



Safe Return to Arts Programming – September 2021

September is traditionally the month when the community experiences a return to the arts programming season. Lethbridge is fortunate to have a strong and diverse arts sector. Community arts organizations and artists present distinctive programs; in different venues and facilities; with significantly different resources.

The AAC is providing the following considerations and recommendations to help our members and stakeholders as they develop COVID policies, regulations and procedures that are manageable by their particular organization. The AAC is also investigating the provision of de-escalation training for front-line staff and volunteers who will be involved in implementing new COVID-19 protocols.

General Considerations & Recommendations

- Public health is the domain of the provincial government. It is important to continue to stay up to date on Provincial Government and AHS announcements as the COVID situation continues to evolve.
- The Provincial Government declared a Public Health State of Emergency on September 15, 2021 and has implemented new restrictions. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-public-health-actions.aspx#restrictions>.
- The Restrictions Exemption Program permits in-scope businesses, entities and organizers to operate without most public health restrictions as outlined in [Order 45-2021](#). Masks are still mandatory indoors. Operators that are out-of-scope or choose not to fully implement the program must comply with all public health restrictions outlined in [Order 44-2021](#).
- Organizations should develop their own COVID policies, regulations and procedures incorporating AHS health orders to ensure a safe programming. A number of organizations have already developed protocols that can be reviewed and adapted to suit an organization's needs. A list of links to resources is included.
- Communicating your COVID Policies and Procedures well in advance will help to mitigate problems at the door. It is recommended that the policy be shared directly with organization members and stakeholders through mailouts, on websites and in all promotional materials for performances, presentations and events. Policy information should also be available at the POS if tickets are required for a performance, presentation or event.
- Communicate reminders for individuals to do COVID self-assessments and to refrain from attending performances, presentations or events when indicated. (See AHS self-assessment screening tool <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/56c020ed-1782-4c6c-bfdd-5af36754471f/resource/58957831-a4ab-45ff-9a8e-3c6af7c1622e/download/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist-2021-09.pdf>)
- Reduce contact between people by eliminating concession services, printed programs, coat checks and other amenities.
- Develop refund regulations and procedures for ticketed or fee-based programs.
- Develop training processes for Board members, volunteers and staff on the organization's COVID Policy & Procedures as well as how to deal with individuals who refuse to comply.
- Consider getting legal advice when implementing COVID Policies that extend beyond AHS Health Orders.

Proof of Vaccination

Vaccinations are not mandatory under Alberta law. The Province of Alberta has established the Restriction Exemption Program allowing organizations to request proof of vaccination from individuals attending their events. The following are considerations if organizations chose to request a proof of vaccination:

- Determine how this information will be communicated in advance of the performance, presentation or event as well as at the time of ticket purchase.
- Develop regulations and procedures for individuals who are unable to be immunized for health, religious or age reasons.
- Ensure the policy be applied consistently across the organization.

Proof of Vaccination Documents

A government issued Proof of Vaccination document will be available September 2021. Considerations regarding requiring proof of vaccination documents include:

- Providing information on how individuals can access their vaccination information (See Accessing Vaccination Information link: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/myhealthrecords>).
- Supporting individuals who may not have easy access or the skills to access electronic records.
- Defining the type of documentation required for exemptions.
- Determining whether or not a COVID test is required if proof of vaccination cannot be provided.
- Developing and sharing with the public information collection regulations.
- Ensuring the public is aware of your COVID Policy in advance of the performance, presentation or event.

Masking

Masking inside is currently an AHS requirement.

- Ensure masking signage is installed at the presentation/event location.
- Have masks available for attendees who do not bring their own.
- Train staff/ volunteers on the current Mask Health Order.
- Train staff/ volunteers how to deal with individuals who are unable or refuse to comply.
- Link to the latest Health Order regarding masking: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/15a538b9-8493-43aa-95c5-327cefc81348/resource/abba2bd9-1aef-4753-a72b-983989525178/download/health-cmoh-record-of-decision-cmoh-order-40-2021.pdf>

Social Distancing

Although not required when participating in the Restriction Exemption Program, social distancing is fundamental in stopping the spread of COVID. Social Distancing considerations include:

- Ascertain the appropriate number of individuals who may safely socially distance within a specific venue or facility.
- Crowd control at entry as well as lobby and performance/presentation spaces when determining numbers.
- Installing appropriate social distancing signage at the performance, presentation or event.

Cleaning Protocols

Appropriate cleaning and sanitizing help to reduce the spread of COVID. Cleaning and Sanitizing considerations include:

- Knowing the cleaning protocols of the venue or facility.
- Determining whether or not additional cleaning should be provided by the organization.
- Developing cleaning protocols for before, during and after performances, presentations or events.
- Providing hand-sanitizing stations if not provided by venue or facility.

COVID Policy Resources

Provincial Organizations

<https://affta.ab.ca/covid19>

<https://www.abdancealliance.ab.ca/covid-19-alberta-dance-alliance-response/>

<https://www.theatrealberta.com/resources/covid-19-resources/>

<https://calgaryphil.com/plan-your-visit/before-your-visit/health-and-safety/>

Provincial Facilities

<https://www.jubileeauditorium.com/covid-19-information>

<https://www.winspearcentre.com/more/visit/covid-19/>

<https://www.citadeltheatre.com/covidfaq?fbclid=IwAR04BRt6iMHLxcNQG1asWr9szBdO74fnBe6iMSdUep2oWIclIkMk0FblCg>

<https://www.youraga.ca/events-features/blog/covid-19-update>

<https://royalalbertamuseum.ca/visit/hours-admission>

<https://artscommons.ca/healthandsafety>

<https://www.contemporarycalgary.com/>

<https://royaltyrrellmuseum.wpcomstaging.com/2021/09/03/stage3/>

Local Organizations & Facilities

<https://leisure.lethbridge.ca/COL/public/category/browse/RCYATESWEBCM>

<http://enmaxcentre.ca/visitors/covid-protocols>

<https://casaletbridge.ca/>

<https://aacworksca.wpcomstaging.com/>

<https://www.saag.ca/>

<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/covid-19>

<https://www.theatreoutr.ca/visiting-didi-safety-information>

<https://www.newwesttheatre.com/safety-and-comfort/>

<https://www.voxmusicaletbridge.org/>

<https://www.lcbs.ca/>