

COVID-19 Protocols

As we navigate these challenging times, we place the health and safety of our participants, staff, and audience as our number one priority. We are excited to be back for our 32nd season, and we understand that things must be a little different. The following protocol was developed using the guidelines provided by Alberta Health Services. These protocols may be adjusted as the situation changes; a detailed email will be sent out for any changes of protocol. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to email our Artistic Director, Albertus Koett, at info@treehouseyouththeatre.ca.

Prior to Each Rehearsal

We are all in this together, and a big part of keeping everyone safe will be the need for each participant, staff, and volunteer to stay home if they feel sick. We ask that you contact Albertus at 403-357-2581 and that you **stay home** if you or your youth feel any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, painful swallowing, runny nose, nasal congestion, feeling unwell, fatigued, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle or joint ache, headache, or conjunctivitis (pink eye). While at home and resting, participants can memorize their lines, analyze the text, etc. There may be the opportunity to video conference with anyone unable to be in rehearsal.

Mandatory Masks

Similar to schools in Alberta, Tree House is making masks mandatory for all participants, staff, and volunteers. We will make a decision on whether our audience needs to wear masks at a later date. We received a donation of 31 masks, in various sizes, from Classic Cleaning and Tailors, in Red Deer. While participants are more than welcome to bring their own, these masks will be available for those that need them. They are washable. Our productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Shakespeare Sonnet Collection* will incorporate masks as part of the costume design.

Sign In Process

For the beginning of each rehearsal our Stage Manager, Catherine McLaren, will be set up in the entrance of CAT Studios at the Red Deer Memorial Centre.

- If there is a line up at the desk, please give 2 meters of space to the next person in line.
- She will be at a table with hand sanitizer, which everyone entering the building should use.
- She will then use a non-contact digital thermometer to take the temperature of everyone entering the building. Anyone with a temperature 38C (100.4F) or higher will not be allowed in rehearsal.
- She will ask the following questions:
 - “Do you have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, painful swallowing, runny nose, nasal congestion, feeling unwell, fatigued, nausea,

COVID-19 Protocols

vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle or joint ache, headache, conjunctivitis (pink eye)?”

- “Have you been outside of Canada within the last 14 days?”
- “Have you had close contact with someone that has travelled out of Canada in the last 14 days?”
- “Have you had close contact with someone in the last 14 days who is ill?”
- “Have you or someone in your household been in close contact with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?”
- If someone answers yes to any of the above questions, they will be asked to return home.

Rehearsals

During rehearsals we will have hand sanitizer available for all participants, staff, and volunteers. We will try to maintain at least two meters of distance, however, due to the nature of theatre, we may need to be closer at times, which is why masks will be mandatory for the entirety of rehearsals. If a participant needs a break from wearing a mask, they can sit off to the side in a chair, where they can remove their mask, but once they stand and move around, they will need to put their mask back on. All surfaces will be sanitized prior to, and after every rehearsal. If, during rehearsal, someone begins to exhibit the symptoms outlined above, they may be asked to go home.

In the Event of an Outbreak of COVID-19

While we certainly will do everything we can to limit the risk of infection, we are prepared for a COVID outbreak. We are using the AHS guideline for K-12 schools as the basis for our plans. The following is taken from AHS, with wording changed for THYT.

If we have a confirmed positive case:

- the zone medical officer of health will work with us to quickly:
 - identify when symptoms developed
 - identify and contact people who had close contact with the person who tested positive, offer testing, and set the isolation measures:
 - people are legally required to isolate for 14 days if they live with or are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19
 - only people in direct contact with a confirmed case need to isolate
- Tree House staff will contact all parents/guardians of youth that may have come in contact with the confirmed case and encourage them to get tested for COVID-19
- We will assess the situation, and may move rehearsals to Zoom until we can ensure that there is no active infection.
- As we will be wearing masks, sanitizing all surfaces, doing symptoms checks, and encouraging anyone that is sick to stay home, the risk of community transmission is lower than if no protocols were in place.



COVID-19 Protocols

In Summary

We hope these protocols are overkill, as we would rather be over prepared than underprepared. It is our firm belief that even with these protocols in place we can have an enjoyable, enriching, and fun season. These protocols may change as the situation necessitates, and we may need to adjust how we do things, but the health and safety of everyone involved with Tree House Youth Theatre must be our number one priority. If you have any questions about these protocols, do not hesitate to email us at info@treehouseyouththeatre.ca.