



Arts Commons to Lift Audience Vaccination and Mask Mandates April 8

A joint statement from Arts Commons and the resident companies confirms the organizations have begun the process to lift remaining COVID-19 health and safety protocols, though masks will continue to be highly encouraged.

April 4, 2022 CALGARY – After several weeks of consultations with patrons, artists, and producing partners, Arts Commons and the resident companies – including Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons Presents, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit and Theatre Calgary – have begun the process of lifting all remaining COVID-19 restrictions for patrons and audience members. **All restrictions for patrons will be lifted building wide as of April 8, 2022.**

As a result, Arts Commons will no longer require proof of vaccination to permit entry into our venues. Masks are strongly encouraged but are no longer mandatory. The impacted venues at Arts Commons include Big Secret Theatre, Engineered Air Theatre, Jack Singer Concert Hall, Martha Cohen Theatre, Max Bell Theatre, and Motel Theatre. Arts Commons staff, including Box Office and Front of House staff, will continue to wear masks while inside the building.

Until April 8, Arts Commons fully supports each resident company and rental partner to implement the policies that are best for them and their audiences. Furthermore, there may be future instances where productions or performances at Arts Commons require additional restrictions on a case-by-case basis – Arts Commons also fully supports these decisions. Finally, depending on the changing state of the pandemic, Arts Commons may reinstate any previous or additional restrictions as needed. As always, audiences are strongly encouraged to consult event websites and e-communications for up-to-date policies before purchasing a ticket or arriving at an event.

Our priority remains the health and safety of every audience member, artist and staff member we welcome into our building. The Arts Commons Audience Mask and Vaccination Policy has been in place since the provincial closure of the Restrictions Exemption Program, which was a decision that Arts Commons and the resident companies made collectively in order to effectively consult with ticketholders and contracted artists. At the time, Arts Commons stated we would communicate any changes as soon as possible. It's clear we are still in a transitional moment in the pandemic and there is no simple one way forward, and we will continue to monitor health and safety best practices and expert guidance. But today, Arts Commons feels confident – excited, even – about taking this step towards welcoming as many people as possible back to the transformational power of the arts.