

Messiah University School of the Arts

[Survey Link](#)

Off-campus guests at student performances: COVID-19 health and safety parameters

Dear Students, Faculty and Guests,

Performance and creation are central to our scholarship in the School of the Arts—and our students and faculty love to share what we do with family, friends and other guests. Regrettably, the public health risks of COVID-19 have limited our students' ability to perform in front of an audience in our usual ways. Messiah University's health and safety measures, which are designed to protect our campus and surrounding community, by necessity restrict attendance by off-campus guests at our music, theatre and dance performances. As a result, the School of the Arts is offering all of its fall performances via livestream. View the Spring 2021 performance schedule and link to the livestream [here](#).

Messiah, however, recognizes the importance of audience and performance in the educational development of our student artists. We also know that the support of family members and friends plays an important role in our students' lives. Accordingly, the University is permitting limited off-campus guests at some School of the Arts events, in accordance with the below COVID-19 health and safety parameters.

1. **Limited by type of event:** Attendance by off-campus guests will be limited to curriculum-centered, capstone-type events such as senior recitals, senior presentations, or other performances that would be a major or capstone event for a student. For Spring 2021 these will be limited to senior honors presentations, senior recitals in music, senior art exhibitions (2021 grads), and senior series performances in theatre and dance.
2. **Limited number of guests, physically distanced by venue:** In most cases, senior students may invite 2-4 family members as guests. In rare cases, students may request up to six family members. Requests should be directed to the Dean of the School of the Arts at schoolofthearts@messiah.edu.
3. **Pre-registered guest lists and tickets:** Senior students should submit the names of invited family members at least one week before the event to [Kelly Athey](#) (music) or [Deb Hawkins](#) (theatre and dance, and art and design). Music events will not require a ticket. Theatre and Dance events may distribute a limited number of free tickets through the student performers.
4. **Online health screening questionnaire:** Pre-registered off-campus guests will be required to complete a brief online health screening questionnaire **on the same day as their arrival on campus**, as given in number 5 below. [Survey Link](#)
5. **Pre-arrival health and safety measures:** Additionally, all off-campus guests are required to follow these protocols:
 - Guests coming from, or having traveled to, any of the states deemed high-risk by the Pennsylvania Department of Health within two weeks of the visit, unfortunately, are not allowed to come to campus. The list of states can be found here: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>.

- Guests who plan to come should be able to answer “yes” to each of the following questions
 - For the past two weeks, have you been masked and kept socially distanced from people outside of your immediate family?
 - Are you currently in good health and not experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#)?
- Guests who plan to come must be able to answer “no” to each of the following questions:
 - Have you attended any large events (for most venues, this will be 20% of indoor capacity and 25% of outdoor capacity, with [full details](#) available from the PA Department of Health) in the last two weeks?
 - Have you been ill with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) for more than three continuous days in the past month?
 - Have you or anyone you live with tested positive for COVID-19 in the last month?
 - Have you had a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the past two weeks?

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Messiah University asks for your cooperation with your personal health assessment prior to arriving on campus. If you or a family member feels ill, please do not come to campus. Instead, we invite you to enjoy the [livestream of the performance](#) to help keep our students and campus community healthy and safe.

6. **On-campus health and safety measures:** All guests must follow the COVID-19 mitigation practices given below while visiting Messiah’s campus:

- Wear a mask at all times during your visit. If you do not have one, we will provide one.
- Maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from individuals outside your family.
- Park in the visitor parking spaces and come directly into the High Center to begin your visit.
- Please do not enter any other buildings during your visit, including student residences.
- Food may not be brought in from off campus; food service of pre-packaged items may be arranged for purchase through [Messiah Dining Services Division](#).
- For health and safety reasons, receptions are not allowed following recitals this year.
- Please do not take your student off-campus during your visit.

We appreciate your cooperation with all of the above COVID-19 mitigation measures. They are essential for maintaining a safe campus environment for our students.

Questions?

Any questions regarding these protocols may be directed to the Dean of the School of the Arts Office at schoolofthearts@messiah.edu, or call 717-796-5045.

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