

Updates to High Strung School of Music's Covid-19 Policies

Effective March 28, 2022

Since reopening our doors in August 2021, we have tried to find a balance, based on our best understanding of scientific, statistical, and social data, between protecting our community and allowing in-person lessons to continue as normally as possible. As case numbers locally and nationally have fallen significantly, vaccination has become widespread, and we all yearn for a greater degree of normalcy, we have determined that we can begin to loosen our policies.

Please be assured that the health and safety of High Strung students and families, as well as our teachers and staff, remain our highest priority. **We will continue to be vigilant, and while we are relaxing our restrictions, we are prepared to reinstate them if conditions warrant.**

We are fortunate to have a superb community that has consistently chosen caution over convenience by keeping us updated about exposures and positive cases, and **we can't thank you enough for this!** We would like to ask that everyone continue to keep us informed so that we may continue to protect one another.

Mask Usage

Masks are now optional in lesson studios.

Optional in this case means that students, teachers, and anyone else who participates in the lesson (such as parents) are free to reach their own agreement regarding masks in the lesson.

Please feel comfortable letting your teacher know if you'd like them to wear a mask in your lesson; in return, if a teacher requests that a student wear a mask, we ask that students respect their wishes. Parents who do not sit in on lessons are welcome to let the office know if they'd like their child's teacher to wear a mask during their lesson.

Masks will continue to be required in the waiting area. We also ask that, as a courtesy to others, students who go directly from outside to their lesson studio wear a mask when passing through the waiting room and hallway.

Controlled Entrance/Waiting Room Closure

We are ending the controlled entry process and reopening our waiting area. Students and parents may now come into the building when they arrive, and are welcome to wait inside before and during lessons.

However, we remain concerned about the amount of congestion that could occur at peak lesson times. Therefore, we hope that many students will continue to wait outside, or at least wait until the last couple of minutes before their lesson starts before coming upstairs. We will continue to monitor the patio and parking area, and if you choose to wait outside we will still let you know when we are ready for you.

It is possible that, during busy times, the waiting area may be too packed for our comfort and we may ask arriving students to remain outside. We estimate that the waiting room can reasonably hold four people.

Exposure to Covid-19

We are no longer differentiating between “primary” and “secondary” exposures. At this point we consider an exposure to have happened when someone who you are regularly in close contact with tests positive for Covid-19.

If you are exposed to Covid-19, we ask you to let us know. If the exposure occurs between 1 and 5 days before your next lesson, we will ask you to take that lesson over Zoom. If the exposure occurs more than 5 days before your next lesson, you will be able to take that lesson in person.

We furthermore request that anyone exposed to Covid-19 receive a negative test result before taking their next in-person lesson.

Positive Cases at High Strung

Any student who tests positive for Covid-19 will be asked to take any lessons occurring over the next 7 days over Zoom.

If the student had been in the school in the five days preceding their negative test, we will let all affected people know (this includes anyone who was in the school immediately before, during, or after the student).

If a teacher tests positive for Covid-19, they will teach all of their lessons for the next 7 days over Zoom. All students who were in the school on the same days as that teacher (in the past 5 days) will be notified.

In addition to protecting our teachers, we are committed to making sure they feel comfortable and safe at work. In the event that a student with Covid-19 has been in the school, all teachers will be given the option to teach their lessons over Zoom until they are comfortable returning.

If an outbreak of Covid-19 occurs through High Strung, we will respond with stronger measures, up to and including moving all lessons online for two weeks.