



AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

Emergency Guidance on Omicron Surge
December 21, 2021

This Emergency Guidance addresses the recent, dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases in many AGMA companies resulting from the Omicron variant. These guidelines are especially important for companies currently in the midst of holiday performances, such as *The Nutcracker* and other holiday concerts.

While much about the Omicron variant remains unknown, AGMA's Expert Medical Advisory Board anticipates a rapid increase in positive cases over the next few weeks. To continue performing, the Medical Advisory Board recommends that companies and Artists take the following steps:

- **Vaccinations.** Ensure that everyone working at the company is fully vaccinated. Please note that “fully vaccinated” means all recommended doses of the original vaccination plus a booster (as soon as possible).
- **Masks.** Masks should be worn to the maximum extent possible, including performances, if feasible. It is recommended that masks be upgraded to at least KN95 and, as always, be worn covering both the nose and mouth. (A good source for KN95's is Project N95, <https://www.projectn95.org/>. These are tested and of high quality.)
- **Testing.** Testing should be increased to a minimum of three (3) times per week. Either PCR or Rapid Antigen tests are acceptable, or a combination, for example, one (1) PCR test each week along with two (2) Rapid Antigen tests.
- **Isolation/Quarantine.** Anyone with a confirmed positive test must isolate for 10 days. There is no “testing out” of a positive case. Close contacts of confirmed positive cases do *not* need to quarantine if: (1) they are symptom free; (2) they are fully vaccinated (vaccination plus booster); (3) they continue to symptom check for 14 days; and (4) they take a Rapid Antigen test at day 5 (or if feasible, take Rapid Antigen tests on days 2, 5, and 7 following

exposure).

- **Critical Performers.** Consider separating understudies and other critical roles so that if the primary performer/person is infected the person replacing them is less likely to be impacted.
- **Reinforce the Basics.** The fundamental safety protocols of *the [AGMA/SDC Return to Stage and Performing Arts Playbook](#)* should be reviewed and reinforced, including, but not limited to, increased ventilation, cleaning/disinfecting, hand hygiene practices, social distancing whenever practicable, and daily health screenings.

As always, AGMA's goal is the safety and success of our Artists and companies. Any proposed changes to existing safety protocols must be reviewed and discussed with your AGMA staff representative prior to implementation. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation as we continue to work through these challenging times together.