



EVENT PROPOSAL- Rehearsals and performance of NEXT TO NORMAL at the Jennie T. Anderson Theatre.

RE: COVID-19 SPECIAL APPROVED EVENTS

Introduction

Georgia governor Brian Kemp announced in June of 2020 that live concert venues in the state can reopen beginning July 1, 2020. With this announcement came regulations outlining how venues are to proceed. For the Cobb County event centers, the work to outline our plan of action has involved various conversations with our integral stakeholders, including but not limited to, volunteers, renters, staff, vendors, sponsors and Cobb County managers. The staff at the event centers also consulted organizations and practitioners within our perspective industries who have shared various resources like the **Event Safety Alliance Guide**, the **Performing Arts Center Consortium Guide to Reopening Theatrical Venues**, and the **Georgia Facilities Working Group Re-opening Guide**. We have also consulted with the Georgia Presenters organization, other amphitheater staff, and fellow Cobb County arts facilities like The Strand.

With all of these conversations, we have compiled this document to serve as an outline how the event centers plan to implement the recommendations from Governor Kemp as well as more specific actions for each facility.

Governor Kemp’s November 19, 2021 Executive Order General Response

Outlined in the November 19, 2021 executive order are various regulations in regard to the event centers. Generally, all four centers would have to abide by the sections:

- Non-critical infrastructures regulations
- Restaurants and dining regulations
- Live Performance venues: Tier 1 or 2 regulations

Effective June 1, 2021, the event centers implemented the **COVID-19 Return to the Workplace Protocols** as outlined by the Cobb County Manager. This includes:

- COVID-19 Testing is available for all employees and is encouraged.
- Cleaning, sanitation and social distancing measures are outlined in these protocols.



Considerations

The COVID-19 situation is an ever-evolving situation that will require constant conversations with all staff, volunteers, vendors and the public. The following guidelines and courses of action in each section are based on the resources available at this current time. Therefore, this document will remain an active resource to be updated as needed. The Cobb County Event Center Staff are committed to staying abreast to the changing guidelines on the national and local level. Our priority is for the safety of our staff and patrons who enter our centers.

Section 1: Jennie T. Anderson Theatre Reopening Guidelines

A. Ticketing

1. ~~Set up a table outside for will call and ticket sales (JTA rentals may vary box office set-up).~~
2. ~~Gloves, masks, and the Plexiglas window will be used.~~
3. ~~Points on the ground will mark a properly distanced ticket/will call line.~~
4. ~~Hand sanitizer stand outside set up between entrance and exit.~~
5. ~~An officer will be needed by ticketing.~~

B. Stage Door

1. Actors will enter through lobby doors. Prior to rehearsals, doors to lobby will be propped open; no contact with door handles. Doors into the lobby will remain closed and locked during rehearsal for safety of personnel. Backstage door will be propped open; no contact with door handles after rehearsal.
2. Accompanying guests of actors must wait outside or in their vehicles- only cast, creative team, JTA Staff, A/V staff, and Atlanta Lyric staff allowed inside venue.
3. Temperatures will be taken upon request. Not mandatory.
4. JTA Staff will direct artists to auditorium.
5. Cast and team will enter auditorium through House Right.
6. Music stands and chairs will be present and set with a 6-foot radius between each other.
7. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory during the production process.
8. Bars will be blocked from the public, but concessions will be sold at performance.
9. There will be hand sanitizer stations at the theater entrance and throughout the facility.
10. Following rehearsal. Artist will depart through the stage door or front doors.
11. Actors will use backstage bathrooms or lobby bathrooms. Actors will exit stage House Left to reach lobby bathrooms. One-way in and out of auditorium. Lobby bathroom's waiting lines will have marked standing points to maintain social distancing.



13. Doors to auditorium will be propped open.
14. JTA Staff will be present to enforce social-distancing protocol and procedures.

C. On Stage

1. Actors and musicians will each have their own microphones; no sharing of equipment.
2. Social-distanced seating (at least three seats between staff) will be enforced for JTA and Lyric staff in audience seating.
3. Upstairs backstage dressing rooms will be assigned. Actors cannot enter the personal space of other actors. Cleaning sprays, disinfectants, and sanitizers will be available in the backstage bathrooms.
4. Renter is required to enforce social distancing (no lingering in stairwells or hallways).

~~**Argument for the renter enforcing social distancing and not us: often, there are underage performers backstage and we don't have enough JTA staff members available to work backstage and front of house. We'll need to arrange backstage protocol with renters.**~~

D. Sanitizing Procedures

1. JTA Staff will wipe auditorium railings and countertop spaces following each rehearsal's start, following breaks, and end.
2. JTA Maintenance will wipe down lobby bathroom toilet handles, arm rests, and sinks following each rehearsal's start, following breaks, and end.

DI. End of Day Routine

1. Auditorium seating area will be fogged following each rehearsal.
2. Sanitize and Lysol area, seating, piano, and piano bench.
3. Wipe down all countertop surfaces in lobby and backstage dressing room.
4. Wipe down handrails and door handles.
5. Work with maintenance from next door to use CDC-approved spray on all touched surfaces in venue.

DII. Artist Agreement

1. A certified Infection Control Specialist will be present at all rehearsals.
 - An COVID rehearsal etiquette orientation will be presented at the start of the first rehearsal.
2. Artists will not attend major social events for 7 days prior to rehearsals.
3. Unless already housed in the same space, actors will not share the same vehicle.
4. Artists will remain in quarantine throughout the 11-day rehearsal process.
5. COVID testing will be required:



- Within 5 days prior to the start of rehearsals.
 - Instructions will be sent to cast with resources and an email address to privately send the results.
 - A second round of COVID testing will be taken at the start of the second week of rehearsals, at the theatre's expense.
- 7. Artists will alert JTA staff of any COVID exposure or positive COVID test results immediately after notification.
 - In the case of an artist being exposed to someone with COVID, the artist will be asked to not attend rehearsals. Artist will immediately be registered for COVID testing (no cost) by the Producer. Artist will not attend rehearsals until negative test results are confirmed.
 - In the case of an artist showing symptoms of COVID, the artist will be asked to not attend rehearsals. Artist will immediately be registered for COVID testing (no cost) by the Producer. Artist will not attend rehearsals until negative test results are confirmed. Remainder of cast may continue attending rehearsals, but all Artists involved will be required to take a rapid COVID test before continuing the rehearsal process.
 - In the case of an artist testing positive for COVID, the Producer will register all artists and creative team (who have come in contact with said artist) for COVID testing (no cost) and production will be halted and possibly canceled/postponed.
 - In the case of the production halting, alternate dates of availability will be discussed with the cast and creative team.
- 8. For performance(s), actors will perform without masks.

Under Georgia law, there is no liability for an injury or death of an individual entering these premises if such injury or death results from the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19. You are assuming this risk by entering these premises.