

COVID-19 Safety Protocols for On-site Classes, Winter Session 2021

Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for registering for a Winter class at Manitoba Theatre for Young People. If it becomes possible to experience your course at MTYP's home at 2 Forks Market Road, here's what you'll need to know in order to prepare for classes at MTYP:

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We will do everything we can to keep you safe from exposure to COVID-19 while at MTYP. The following protocols will be in place for the Winter Session for on-site programming.

If a Provincial order allows us to resume in-person operations, we will make the decision to move classes on-site based on the following criteria:

1. Compliance with the letter and intent of Provincial Health Orders.
2. Assessment of the benefits such a move for each class.

Classes returning to in-person delivery will move to MTYP with no interruption to programming. We will clearly notify you if your course is moving on-site. If you choose not to return to on-site programming for whatever reason, we will do our best to switch you into an age-appropriate class that is designated as "online only." Refunds for courses will not be given after the third class. If an on-site program is not for you at this time, please consider signing up for one of our "online only" courses, available for most age groups.

For your safety, the MTYP building will be open to students, with limited access for parents, and closed to the general public.

We have implemented policies on mask use and safe physical distancing for shared spaces and studios.

We will ask all staff and visitors to bring a protective mask to wear while at MTYP. In case you forget your mask or require a fresh one, free disposable masks and paper mask storage bags will be available at MTYP.

Hand sanitizer dispensers are installed throughout our building.

We will sanitize frequently touched surfaces in our studios and shared spaces between classes.

We have staggered class times to minimize contact between groups.

We have reduced class sizes and eliminated programming in our smallest studio.

We have installed physical distancing markers in the lobby.

WEARING A PROTECTIVE MASK AT MTYP

During the evening and weekend hours that Theatre School classes are in session, protective masks are required in all shared spaces and studios at MTYP. [If your child is unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, please discuss with us. Exceptions will be communicated to the Course Instructor.]

TRY NOT TO ARRIVE EARLY FOR YOUR CLASS

In order to reduce contact between class groups, we recommend that you arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your class, and leave within 5 minutes of the end. Early arrivals to class may wait in a designated area of the lobby.

SIGNING IN AT THE DOOR

By showing up for class you agree that you:

1. have completed a self-screening test as recommended by the Province of Manitoba at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
2. are free of symptoms that indicate the possibility of a COVID-19 infection.
3. have not had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
4. have not travelled outside the Manitoba-approved zones within the last 14 days.

When you arrive, we will greet you at the door with a health-screening question and sign you in.

Please sanitize your hands upon entry.

We request that Parents, Guardians, or Caregivers of students age 6 and up avoid entering the building if possible. Children age 5 and under may bring one adult:

- DramaVentures students have one adult with them in class.
- One adult accompanying a Creative Drama student age 4 or 5 may wait in the lobby if necessary.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOUR CLASS

Theatre School staff will direct you to a marked waiting area in the lobby, where you'll stand on a spot that matches the colour of your studio. You'll keep your boots and coat with you, as well as any other belongings you bring (which may include a clean extra mask, a bag to store soiled masks, and a pair of indoor shoes). Your teacher will greet you in the lobby and lead you to your class.

Please bring your belongings and wear your boots and coat right into the classroom with you. There will be no coat racks or boot racks in the lobby.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN CLASS

In your studio, you'll find a place to put your wet boots and a designated personal area where you can leave your coat and other belongings, and change into your indoor shoes.

Activities in class will be structured to allow for safe physical distancing of 2 metres between people. Please maintain 2 metres safe physical distance between yourself and others at all times, including during class breaks, trips to the restroom, when waiting in the lobby or when exiting the building.

Please avoid sharing objects or touching surfaces in your studio. We will not pass tools, props, costumes, or toys from person to person in classes.

Please leave your mask on throughout your visit to MTYP. We suggest packing a second, clean mask in case your first mask becomes soiled or has to be removed.

Mask-wearing may be difficult for some children. We ask you to keep trying. An hour-long theatre class is a good chance to practice sustained mask-wearing, and may support your efforts to accustom your child to wearing a mask through longer periods at school.

At the end of class, you'll get into your coat and boots and head for the lobby with your instructor.

WHAT TO DO AFTER CLASS

Parents of students age 6 and older, please be ready to greet your child in MTYP's front courtyard at the end of class so that you do not have to enter the building.

Parents of students age 5 and under: while we encourage you to spend class time elsewhere, we can accommodate a small number of parents (one per child) waiting in the lobby, provided that protective masks are worn and safe physical distance from others is maintained.

Students in classes held in Richardson Hall exit through the green studio doors directly into the front courtyard. Parents should be waiting there for them.

MUSICAL THEATRE

As long as singing in public is not allowed by Provincial order, Musical Theatre courses will have occasional online classes to allow for singing and music training. This is likely to be 3 classes in a term of 10 classes. The remaining 7 on-site classes will focus on choreography, acting, and music theory, but live singing will not take place.

Online classes will use the video conferencing tool Zoom, which is free for you to use. You'll need an internet connection and a device with a camera such as a computer, phone, or tablet. A computer is best, to allow you to access all the features and to step away from the screen for movement and dance activities. We'll send you an invitation by email when it's time to plan our first online class.

In past years, Musical Theatre classes have shared their work at a public onstage Gala Recital in March. Unfortunately, there will be no public Musical Theatre Gala performance this spring.

RESTROOMS

Students age 5 and under who need to use the restroom will be accompanied by an adult. Students age 6 and over may go to the restroom with a buddy.

Signs will be posted at the restrooms stating that no more than 3 people should be in the restroom at a time.

There is an accessible and gender-neutral single-user washroom available on the second floor down the hall past the drink machine.

WATER FOUNTAINS

To reduce surfaces that are frequently touched, water fountains will be disconnected during class sessions. Water bottles may be filled at sinks in the restrooms or in the lobby.

THANK YOU

Thank you for doing your part in keeping everyone safe and reducing exposure to COVID-19 at MTYP. Please contact ksuss@mtyp.ca with questions or comments about this policy.

These protocols may be updated as conditions change.

Updated December 2, 2020