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# Seattle Opera is requiring audiences to be vaccinated beginning Sept. 1

## The company joins peer arts organizations in new safety mandate

SEATTLE—Mask up and grab your vaccination card—or negative COVID-19 test—before attending a Seattle Opera performance. The organization announced today that beginning on Sept. 1, audience members will be required to be vaccinated for all indoor performances and public events in the 2021/22 season.

The policy was implemented based on the rapid rise of COVID-19 cases, as well as feedback from patrons. Seattle Opera joins the Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The 5th Avenue Theatre, ACT - A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle Rep, Village Theatre and others in the new vaccination requirement.

"Health and safety remain our top priorities, and we're excited to offer beautiful music and storytelling in McCaw Hall once again," said **General Director Christina Schepplmann**. "We're committed to making people's return to live performance as safe and enjoyable as possible."

When attending a Seattle Opera event, patrons will need to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination (or proof of a negative COVID-19 test for exempted persons) for all public events at McCaw Hall and the Opera Center. As previously announced, masks are required except for when eating or drinking in designated areas.

Children under 12 and people with a medical condition or closely held religious belief that prevents vaccination must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 48 hours of the performance start time. A negative COVID-19 antigen test taken within 12 hours of the performance start time is also acceptable.

Opera Center programs designed for youth will not require vaccination.

Vaccination and masking requirements will likely remain in place for the upcoming season. Seattle Opera will review these policies on an ongoing basis. Relaxing

certain measures may be possible when recommended by health officials or when COVID case counts allow. All Seattle Opera staff have been vaccinated.

More details—plus up-to-date information—can always be found at [seattleopera.org/safety](https://seattleopera.org/safety).

### **About Seattle Opera**

Established in 1963, Seattle Opera is committed to serving the people of the Pacific Northwest with performances of the highest caliber and through innovative educational and engagement programs for all. Each year, more than 95,000 people attend Seattle Opera performances, and more than 400,000 people of all ages are served through school performances, radio broadcasts, and more. By drawing our communities together, and by offering opera's unique fusion of music and drama, we create life-enhancing experiences that speak deeply to people's hearts and minds. Connect with Seattle Opera on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud, and on 98.1 Classical KING FM.

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