

Newton Theatre Kids (NTK) is dedicated to providing our students with the highest possible standard of arts education while cultivating a learning environment that emphasizes safety and transparency. We rely on the cooperation of all of our staff and families to ensure that NTK is able to minimize the risks of COVID-19.

The following protocol is based in part on the most updated MA Department of Public Health/ Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DPH/DESE) guidelines and CDC guidelines. Please note that our protocol is subject to change based on the current pandemic landscape. Our leadership team will be sure to swiftly share any changes to our protocols with our community.

**To that end, we ask everyone in our program to comply with the following guidelines:**

**Symptom and Exposure Awareness:** We ask that students and staff stay home if they are feeling unwell. We reserve the right to ask students who display respiratory symptoms to mask during class. If students have a household exposure to COVID-19 (i.e. a person in the household is within 5 days of a positive COVID test) and chooses to attend class, that student must wear a mask while present.

As per separate communications, **all students are required to provide documentation of a full series of COVID-19 vaccination** prior to the start of the NTK program. COVID-19 boosters are strongly recommended but not required. **If you have yet to submit proof of your child's COVID vaccination status, you can do so [here](#).** *Please note that students will not be allowed to participate without providing this documentation.*

**MASKS are no longer required during weekly rehearsals or performances for NTK** (aside from cases in which children are still in the 10 day window after a positive COVID test– see below).

- Individual families may choose to have their children wear a mask to rehearsals and/or performances–these individual decisions will be fully supported by the NTK staff.
- A decision will be made and announced within two weeks prior to the performance whether masks will be required of audience members.

**If a child tests positive for COVID:**

- Self-isolation for a minimum of 5 days after positive PCR or rapid antigen test is required. Please note that the 1st day of a positive test counts as day “ZERO,” so the isolation starts as day 1 on the day after that positive test.
- Return to NTK after 5 days and once the child has:
  - Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications)
  - Experienced improvement in other symptoms
- Following the 5-day isolation period, the child **MUST** wear a mask for 5 additional days when around others, other than when eating, drinking, or outside.

- PLEASE NOTE: Testing negative with a rapid antigen test prior to returning to the NTK is strongly recommended but not required. (Do not use a repeat PCR test, as PCR testing may remain positive for up to 90 days after an infection). Return to the program may be based on time and symptom improvement.

**NTK's communication and notification policy regarding COVID-19:**

- If your child tests positive, please notify us at [abbylass@gmail.com](mailto:abbylass@gmail.com).
- If your child will be missing a class due to COVID-19, please let us know so that we can adjust our planning accordingly.
- Families will be notified if a student or staff member tests positive within 5 days of class meeting.
- We will not be conducting contact tracing to identify close contacts. Therefore, families will not be identified if their student is a close contact of a positive COVID case.

We look forward to providing your children with a safe and supportive learning environment this fall.

–The NTK Team