



Opera Birmingham considers the health of our employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, their families, and our patrons a top priority. With that in mind, we are providing the following information regarding our COVID-19 risk-reduction protocols as we plan our work, rehearsals, events, and performances for the 2023-2024 season. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 and will update as warranted.

Updated protocols are based on recent CDC guidelines (including the use of the Community Risk Level Framework tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>), and best practices within the opera performance community in the United States (incorporating updated guidance from the American Guild of Musical Artists).

When the community risk is decreasing (High to Medium or Medium to Low), higher level controls as laid out below will be maintained for a minimum of two weeks before changing to a lower level. When there are any signs of worsening of community risk (moving from Low to Medium or from Medium to High), higher level controls will be reinstated immediately.

**PERFORMER PROTOCOLS**

The following protocols will remain in place regardless of the community risk level:

- All artists and staff must be fully vaccinated, including all CDC recommended boosters.
- All artists and staff traveling to Birmingham should take a COVID test the day before travel, and send a photo of their negative test to Opera Birmingham.
- When in Elevated Risk Levels, weekly rapid testing will be conducted for all artists and staff throughout the rehearsal and performance period except for those who are within 90 days of a positive test who have cleared isolation/quarantine and are symptom free.
- If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, or you are experiencing COVID symptoms, you must notify Opera Birmingham staff immediately and remain home until you can be tested.
- Only essential personnel and individuals with prior approval from Opera Birmingham are permitted in work venues; no other visitors are permitted.

Mitigation Controls	CDC Risk Level – Low	CDC Risk Level – Medium	CDC Risk Level - High
<b>Masks</b>	Masks optional after at least 2 consecutive weeks at Green/Low.	Masks required for all rehearsals and at all times when not performing.  Use higher-grade masks (KN95, N95, KF94).	Masks required for all rehearsals and at all times when not performing.  Masks required for performing unless testing increased.  Use higher-grade masks (KN95, N95, KF94).
<b>Return to Work Testing</b>	Optional	Recommended PCR (72 hours) or RA testing (4 hours) prior to work.	Recommended PCR (72 hours) or RA testing (4 hours) prior to work.

OPERA BIRMINGHAM WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING (AS NEEDED):

- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Sanitizing wipes
- Face Coverings

Please address concerns or questions to the Director of Production & Operations or General Director. Opera Birmingham will revise or update these protocols as guidance and recommendations are updated.