New rules for staying safe and making music at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center
Merit School of Music welcomes back in-person instruction!

Merit intends to deliver all scheduled in-person instruction and do so according to safety best practices. To that end, we will continue monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and updating our policies, procedures, and protocols according to the latest public health guidance.

**Day-to-Day Activities (effective June 2022)**

- Masks recommended
- Vaccination checks are no longer required for visitors
- Social distancing and room capacity limits are no longer in effect

Merit could return to more conservative COVID mitigation measures if and when deemed necessary.

While masks are no longer required, anyone who wishes to continue wearing a mask will be welcome to do so and any 'mask bullying' from any community member will not be tolerated.
# COVID-19 GUIDELINES

## Do you have these symptoms?

- Fever (100.4 F or higher)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Joint and muscle pain

## Have you had Exposure?

### No - I have not had close contact with an exposed individual

### Yes - I was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person with or without a mask for 15 or more minutes within a 24 hour period

## With exposure or with symptoms:

- Anyone who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 10 days after their last exposure to that person

## Without exposure & without symptoms:

- Welcome in, we’re so glad to see you!

## With exposure & fully vaccinated:

- Someone who has been fully vaccinated (final shot + two weeks) and shows no symptoms of COVID-19 does NOT need to stay home, regardless of exposure

If you think you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive or are experiencing any symptoms, please consult your healthcare provider and get tested. If you test positive and were inside Merit within 10 days, please report your test result promptly to safety@meritmusic.org. Your help is the key to keeping our communities safe.
**SHOULD I VISIT MERIT TODAY?**

Do you have COVID-19 symptoms?
- **YES** → Please stay home and attend virtually.
- **NO** → Have you been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person?
  - **YES** → Have you tested positive for COVID-19?
    - **YES** → Are you fully vaccinated?
      - **YES** → Welcome! You may visit Merit.
      - **NO** → Please stay home and attend virtually.
    - **NO** → Are you under quarantine instructions from a doctor or another institution (ex. academic school)?
      - **YES** → Please stay home and attend virtually.
      - **NO** → Welcome! You may visit Merit.
  - **NO** → Welcome! You may visit Merit.

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**Merit School of Music**

**be the best**

**visit Merit**
MERIT’S COVID-19 MITIGATION EFFORTS

Merit will continue monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and updating our policies, procedures, and protocols according to the latest public health guidance. The health and safety of our families, faculty, and staff are of the utmost importance and anyone who does not follow our guidelines will not be allowed to enter our facilities.

- Masks are recommended while in Merit's building.
- Improvements to the HVAC system allow for more turnover of air from outside. This safety measure increases ventilation but reduces temperature control. Please plan to dress accordingly.
- Vaccinations are widely available as is the first FDA-approved drug treatment.
- Chicago Public Schools, many of Merit's partner organizations, and most public spaces have significantly stepped back or discontinued masking and vaccination requirements.
- All Merit faculty & staff are fully vaccinated.*

*Unless granted a religious or medical exemption.
EXPOSURE & COMMUNICATION PLAN

If a student or any member of a student’s household tests positive for COVID-19, please report it to Merit immediately (safety@meritmusic.org). Merit will then communicate via email with any student, faculty, or staff who may have been in close contact with the individual with further instructions. Please make sure your email address has been updated in your ASAP profile and that you check your email regularly.

In the interest of preserving individuals’ privacy, Merit will share communication with only those parties directly involved and reserves the right to pivot to virtual instruction when deemed appropriate. We encourage parents to select whatever class platform works best for their family. We prioritize the health and safety of our community and look to empower individuals with information so that our families are able to make the best decisions for their own well-being.

*A close contact is anyone (with or without a face covering) who was within 6 feet of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (with or without a face covering), for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the infection period. Repeated exposures result in an increased amount of time of exposure; the longer a person is exposed to an infected person, the higher the risk of exposure/transmission. The infectious period of close contact begins 2 calendar days before the onset of symptoms (for symptomatic people) or 2 calendar days before the positive sample was obtained (for an asymptomatic person). If the case was symptomatic (e.g. coughing, sneezing, etc.), persons with briefer periods of exposure may also be considered contacts.
WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER

We need your help to make sure everyone in our building stays healthy. For the wellbeing of Merit’s staff, faculty, and students, please email safety@meritmusic.org if you notice any risky behavior or unsafe conditions in our building.

EMAIL SAFETY@MERITMUSIC.ORG IF:

- Someone seems sick
- Someone isn’t wearing a mask
- Someone isn’t staying 6 feet away from someone else
- Something needs to be disinfected and cleaned
- Someone is in our building who hasn’t signed up to be here