



## **arts-X-press 2021 Health and Safety FAQs**

With a strong partnership with our host institution, Concordia University Irvine, arts-X-press is excited to announce that we are planning to be back in-person and on-campus for the summer of 2021.

Concordia's established and proven health and safety protocols, along with recommendations from the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Camp Association, have and will continue to inform our health and safety protocols for this coming summer.

While we anticipate a more "normal" summer of 2021, this past year has taught us that we must remain flexible and alert to changes in our public health situation. With that knowledge, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and keep arts-X-press families informed, as the health and safety of our community is our top priority.

As families make decisions about summer programs for 2021, you undoubtedly have a lot of questions. We will answer as many of those questions as we can here and provide updates and more detailed health and safety guidelines and policies as we get closer to summer.

### **What kind of plan does arts-X-press have to protect students from COVID?**

We will provide enrolled families more information as we get closer to summer, but we anticipate the following approach:

1. **Testing and health screening:** All students will need to have a PCR test completed 1-3 days before arriving on campus. Pacific Symphony will be providing a free testing option or students can choose to bring proof of a negative test with them to campus. Upon arrival, students will also undergo a health screening and additional testing and screening may occur throughout the program.
2. **Pods:** Students will be assigned to a pod of up to ten students, two counselors, and two staff members. Students will take workshops, eat meals, and live with other members of their pod.
3. **Face coverings, hand washing, sanitation:** At this time, per CDC guidelines, masks will be required. We will build in time between activities for hand washing and sanitizing, as well as outdoor mask breaks. In addition, Concordia has increased

their sanitation and cleaning measures throughout campus, including spaces arts-X-press will occupy. They have also increased air-flow in indoor spaces to be compliant with CDC recommended air filtration standards.

4. **Physical distancing and outdoor activities:** While we are indoors, physical distancing protocols will be followed and capacity limits on rooms will be strictly followed. As many full-group activities as possible will take place outdoors.
5. **"The bubble":** We will not be going off-campus for excursions this year; rather bringing performances on-campus for an arts-X-press only audience. In addition, staff and counselors who are in direct contact with students live on campus and contact with those outside the arts-X-press bubble will be limited.

### **Will there be other groups on-campus?**

Concordia University Irvine has limited the number of outside groups on-campus this summer. We are working closely with Concordia's facilities and dining teams to ensure that our students will not be in contact with anyone outside of our arts-X-press group.

### **Where will students live?**

Based on guidance from Concordia and recommendations from health officials, students will sleep in a single room. Students will share a quad with one other student of the same gender in their pod. Quads are composed of two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a small living space. Counselors and staff members also live in the dorms and are easily accessible throughout the day and night. Arts-X-press will not be sharing dorms with any other groups on campus.

### **Will you run at the same capacity this summer?**

Arts-X-press has always prided itself on our small community. In a typical summer, we have up to 50 students at a time. With ample outdoor spaces, large indoor spaces where we can ensure physical distance, the use of additional dorm space, and our pod system, we plan to continue to allow for 40-50 students per arts-X-press session.

### **Do you have an on-site nurse?**

Yes. We are pleased to welcome back our campus nurse who is a seasoned school nurse. She will continue to oversee our health and safety protocols, administer medications, and be available to students throughout the course of the program.

### **How has your program changed?**

We are in the process of adjusting protocols and procedures related to program arrival and departure, daily health screenings, meals, transportation, limiting student contact, increasing on-campus programming, and adapting to a pod model to ensure the health and safety of our arts-X-press community.

As we make these adjustments to fit current health and safety recommendations, the magic of arts-X-press will always stay the same. Because we will not be traveling off-campus, students will have even more time to explore the arts on-campus, with an additional arts workshop than we typically offer. We will also be bringing professional performers to campus for special performances just for arts-X-press.

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### **How are you taking care of students' emotional well-being this summer?**

Beyond the increased health and safety measures, we recognize the extraordinary toll that the past year has taken on students emotionally. Some students have lost loved ones. Some have been learning online for the past year and have had little exposure to other students. Some are experiencing anxiety and depression. Some have been directly impacted by racism in our communities and in our country. Many of us are grieving and we at arts-X-press believe the arts can be a force for healing. We have always prided ourselves on creating a safe space where students can bring their authentic selves and find a community where they will be accepted for who they are. This summer, this ethos is more important than ever.

As such, we will be providing additional training opportunities for our staff and counselors in how best to support students' emotional well-being this summer so we can ensure we are sensitive to the needs of our community, while also creating a space where we can experience joy and magic.

We also encourage parents and guardians to communicate ahead of time with arts-X-press staff about any concerns or issues we should be aware of that may impact your students' time at arts-X-press and our ability to support them.

### **How will students get to Concordia? Will you be offering bus transportation this year?**

Unfortunately due to health and safety recommendations, we will not be offering bus transportation to campus. Students will need to be dropped off at Concordia University Irvine on Sunday evening and picked up the following Friday afternoon.

### **Will parents be allowed on-campus?**

Parents or caregivers will check students in to the program on Sunday and pick them back up on Friday afternoon. We also hope to welcome a limited number of family members from each student household onto campus Thursday evening for our final sharing, where each workshop will have a chance to present what they've been working on and where parents can get a taste of the arts-X-press magic.

### **Our family is considering traveling this summer. Will there be mandatory quarantines?**

We will ask families to follow the travel advisories (if any) in place by the state of California, including any quarantine advisories still in effect. Moreover, we ask families to abide by a "community-first" mindset to ensure the health and safety of our arts-X-press community this summer. Along those lines, we will be requiring all students, families, and staff to take the arts-X-press Health Pledge, acknowledging your commitment to keeping our entire community safe this summer.

### **What if you have to cancel the program?**

Last summer, we ran a successful virtual version of arts-X-press, AXP@Home. If the circumstances change so that we are unable to offer in-person arts-X-press, we would pivot to our online model. Families who are not interested in a virtual program would be refunded or have an option to rollover admission to the following summer.

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