



**arts-X-press 2021
Health and Safety Protocols
Updated June 22, 2021**

With a strong partnership with our host institution, Concordia University Irvine, Pacific Symphony's 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 public health officials, the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Camp Association, have informed 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 you think about your student's experience at camp this summer, you undoubtedly have a lot of questions. Below you'll find more information on our COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at arts-X-press@pacificsymphony.org if you have questions or concerns. We always aim to make arts-X-press accessible to as many students as possible.

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

Knowing that we will have a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated students living on campus this summer, we will be following a six-point plan that ensures the utmost health and safety of our entire arts-X-press community.

1. **Vaccinations:** arts-X-press highly encourages all eligible students (age 12 and older) to be fully vaccinated by the time camp begins. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after the dose of a single-dose vaccine. Because not all students may be fully vaccinated, our testing and mask requirements will be maintained for the entire arts-X-press community regardless of vaccination status (see below for more information on testing and mask requirements).

2. **Testing and health screening:** All students, counselors and staff regardless of vaccination status will need to have a PCR test completed two to three days before arriving on campus. Pacific Symphony will be providing a free testing option on the Thursday before the program begins (more information can be found in your Camp in Touch account). Alternatively, students can choose to bring proof of a negative PCR test with them to campus, as long as the test was done no more than three days before the start of camp. A rapid molecular test can be done as an alternative. *Please let us know if getting tested prior to camp poses a problem for you and we can work together to find a solution.*
Upon arrival, all students will also undergo a health screening and may also be asked to take an additional rapid test. Daily screenings, including symptom and temperature checks, will occur for all students. Daily testing may also occur for students who are placed in arts workshops where masks need to be removed (i.e. playing a wind instrument in instrumental music, singing in vocal music, etc.) and/or performing in final sharing or the talent show without a mask.
3. **Pods:** Students will be assigned to a pod of up to 10 students, two counselors, and two staff members. Students will take workshops, eat meals, and live with other members of their pod. In the event that pods are smaller than 10 students, pods may be combined to form “households” of no more than 14 students.
4. **Face coverings, hand washing, sanitation:** Masks will be required for all indoor activities. Masks will not be required in most outdoor settings or while students are in their dorm rooms (see below for more information). 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, and has added hand sanitizing and wipe dispensers throughout campus. They have also increased air-flow in indoor spaces to be compliant with CDC recommended air flow standards. Arts-X-press staff members will be responsible for sanitizing any frequently touched items such as art supplies, desks, music stands, etc. at the end of each workshop.
5. **Physical distancing and outdoor activities:** A minimum of three-foot physical distancing protocols will be followed while indoors and capacity limits on rooms will be strictly followed. As many full-group activities as possible will take place outdoors and three-foot physical distancing will be maintained when students are outdoors around students who are not in their pod.
6. **“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. 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 minimized.

What are your mask requirements?

Because not all of our students will be fully vaccinated, we will continue to implement mask requirements in certain situations. Due to relaxing restrictions around mask wearing, our testing protocols, and increases in vaccinations, we are able to not require masks at all times.

While these guidelines are in place to balance the safety and overall student experience, we fully support students who feel more comfortable keeping their mask on, even when outdoors. Please let us know of any underlying health conditions with your student or at home that necessitate your student to wear a mask whenever possible.

Students **DO** have to wear a mask in the following contexts:

1. Upon arrival to the program.
2. Indoors (during workshops, indoor group activities, and indoor performances).
3. Outdoors while singing camp songs or when not able to maintain three feet of distance around those not in the same pod.

Students **DO NOT** have to wear a mask in the following contexts (though may choose to do so):

1. During outdoor activities that do not involve singing or when outdoors in close proximity to students who are not in their pod.
2. During mealtimes (meals will take place outdoors under a tent).
3. While participating in an arts workshop that requires removal of mask (i.e. singing in vocal music or playing a wind instrument in instrumental music), provided a rapid COVID test taken the morning of the workshop comes back negative.
4. While in their suite, dorm room, and suite bathroom (shared with one other student).
5. During designated outdoor mask breaks, so long as three feet of distance is maintained between students who are not in the same pod.
6. While performing in final sharing or talent show, if the student's performance requires a removal of their mask (i.e. singing or playing a wind instrument), provided a rapid COVID test taken the morning of the performance comes back negative.
7. They cannot wear face coverings due to a documented medical or mental health condition or disability, or who are hearing-impaired or communicating with a hearing-impaired person when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. A physician's note must be provided at least seven days before arrival at camp. Alternatives will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 direct contact with anyone outside of our arts-X-press group.

Where will students live?

Based on guidance from Concordia and recommendations from health officials, each student 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 in adjacent suites and are easily accessible throughout the day and night. Arts-X-press will not be sharing dorms with any other groups on campus.

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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 30-50 students per arts-X-press session.

Do you have an on-site nurse?

Yes. We are pleased to welcome back our arts-X-press 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.

What kind of health screenings should we expect?

All staff, counselors, and students are requested to complete an online health screening form within 24 hours before arrival on campus. Paper copies will also be available at check-in. The arrival health screening will include a questionnaire, including virus history, pre-arrival testing information, known virus exposure, travel information, group event participation, and any known symptoms.

Everyone will also undergo a temperature test. Unvaccinated students, counselors, and staff may also receive a rapid COVID-19 test. This is in addition to the required PCR test done before arriving on campus.

Each day of camp, students will have a morning health screening, where they will be asked to report any new symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, fast or shallow breathing, chills, muscle pain or fatigue, headache/stomachache/nausea, multiple episodes of vomiting or diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell. Rapid tests may be administered for students who will need to remove their mask during their arts workshop (i.e. for singing or playing a wind instrument).

What if my child gets sick before camp?

arts-X-press requires staff, counselors, and students to stay home when they are sick. Staff members, counselors, and students are encouraged to report illness and absence as soon as possible. If symptoms improve and space and circumstances allow, we will work to place you in another session, or defer your admission to next summer. Tuition in the event of illness is refundable or deferrable.

If your student was sick in the weeks leading up to camp, students should only come to camp if it has been at least 10 days since symptoms developed, they are free from fever without the use of pain relievers and/or fever reducing medications, and without symptoms.

What if a student gets sick at camp?

With testing protocols in place and very low rates of COVID-19 in the community, we hope not to have to use our sickness protocols. However, if a child does get sick at camp, there is an area where they can rest, be watched, and safely isolate from others. We will communicate with parents or caretakers directly, arrange for testing and, if necessary,

arrange for the child to be taken to a healthcare facility or picked up. Likewise, staff and counselors exhibiting symptoms will also be isolated until they can leave campus.

Until students can leave campus, tuition will be prorated based on the number of days students were able to attend camp.

How will I know if a student in my child's pod tests positive for COVID-19 while at camp?

If a student who your child has been in contact with tests positive for COVID-19 while at camp, we will notify parents or caregivers via email or phone while maintaining confidentiality, as required under state and federal law related to privacy.

If your student is unvaccinated and has come into close contact with a student who has tested positive for COVID-19, they may be asked to leave camp for their own health and safety and the health and safety of other campers. Until students can leave campus, tuition will be prorated based on the number of days students were able to attend camp.

How has your program changed?

We have adjusted 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 that arts-X-press is known for will stay the same. Because we will not be traveling off-campus as we had done in previous years, students will have even more time to explore the arts on-campus, and have the opportunity to take 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.

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 late afternoon and picked up the following Friday late morning. Check the arrival and departure form in your Camp in Touch account for more information.

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 late morning. We will also be posting updates in the News section of our Camp in Touch account for families to see what their students are up to. We are planning to live stream our Final Sharing on the Thursday evening of the session so families and friends are able to see our final performance!

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, particularly for unvaccinated students, counselors and staff. 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.

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 drastically 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.