

With the 2022 season right around the corner, the following is an update on what COVID protocols may be in place at in-person events, and how the information will be released.

CONTESTS

Flexibility is crucial this season. The venue hosting the show will have the final decision for the protocols for that contest. Therefore, there could be different protocols at each event. Please realize these circumstances are beyond our control due to the variation of mandates and policies enforced by local health authorities, school boards, and event hosts.

Approximately three-four weeks before each event, the event host will decide whether mask mandates or audience capacity limits are required based on their local procedures and communicate those policies to the Contest Director.

COVID protocols are a moving target and finding one policy that encapsulates all possible outcomes of the 2022 season is impossible. Therefore, we ask that groups prepare for any combination of the scenarios below:

- Groups/Spectators may need to wear masks in the facility if a mandate is in place. Masks must cover the nose and mouth at all times if a mandate is in place. (everyone will bring their own mask)
- Groups should prepare to wear masks both during warm-up and performances should the mask mandate include "during competition."
- If capacity restrictions for the venue are in place, the show may be divided into blocks of performances by time and different ticketing procedures implemented to control crowd capacity.
- If capacity restrictions for the venue are in place, groups will have designated times to arrive, unload, go into warm-up, perform, and then leave the building. There will be NO hallway space for "hang out" in this instance.
- If capacity restrictions for the venue are in place, groups may not enter the gym before or after their performances.
- If extra time is required between performances, the overall format of the show may change.

If any local mandates are in place:

- On that event webpage, a red button will appear that reads "COVID PROTOCOLS."
- An e-mail will be sent through CompetitionSuite; make sure to allow emails from @messages.competitionsuite.com, to participating groups explaining the "COVID PROTOCOLS" for that event. These emails will be sent to all Admins and

Staff members. You may add as many “staff” members as you would like to receive this information. Communication may also be sent the day of an event via text message. Please make sure cell phone numbers are up to date within CompetitionSuite.

Some events may not have mask requirements or capacity restrictions. As a measure of mitigating risk at **all events**, the following protocols are in place:

- All individuals are welcome to wear a mask at any time, regardless of the mandates of the facility.
- Social distancing is encouraged as much as possible.
- Masks are required for anyone attending in-person critiques (staff and judges).
- Anyone who does not feel well is asked not to attend the event.
- The event host is being asked to clean high-traffic areas frequently throughout the event.
- Traffic patterns will be designed to improve circulation and minimize cross-traffic.
- Group “hang out” areas will be greatly reduced. Please plan to bring as little as possible into a facility.
- No food items will be allowed in the “hang out” areas. Plan to eat snacks/meals outside the venue.
- Groups will not have access to changing facilities at any contest. Please come prepared to perform (and not use the bathrooms to change clothes).

Unit Directors are responsible for knowing the protocols of your group/school and enforcing them within your organization at all times. Please also talk to your parents and supporters so they understand the protocols at each event.

We will continue discussing, forming, and evaluating COVID procedures as the season progresses. Our website will communicate any updates to these protocols as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kendra Whelchel at rmcga.contestdirector@gmail.com