

## **ALT ACADEMY COVID-19 PROTOCOL**

The protocol outlined in the following pages ensured that Amarillo Little Theatre could keep its doors open for our 2020-21 Season. While we are currently operating with limited Covid-19 protocol, we continue to evaluate the health of our community and make adjustments based on those assessments.

For current Academy protocol, please see the ALT Academy Covid-19 Participation Release Form on the Academy Classes page.

# ALT ACADEMY COVID-19 PROTOCOL

We appreciate the trust and confidence of our families to allow us to provide an opportunity for their children to engage in the performing arts in the midst of this crisis, and are making every effort to provide the safest and most healthy experience possible.

These are uncharted waters for all of us, but we also recognize that now, more than ever, our students need the opportunity for community, creativity and the ability to express themselves through the arts.

The intent of this Protocol is to provide the appropriate level of notification and transparency to COVID-related incidents while protecting the privacy rights of those participants affected. Public notifications will expand as the risk and need for awareness for the safety of ALT Academy's participants expand.

In those instances where a student may not be able to participate onsite in the scenarios outlined below, ALT Academy will make every effort to allow for their online participation.

## NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

All staff, participants and their families should remain vigilant for any signs of COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>).

- **If a student or production team volunteer shows symptoms:**
  - They should follow the CDC guidance for quarantine and testing and remain away from an ALT location until they have either tested negative or the symptoms have cleared as defined by the CDC, and should notify their instructor/director outlining the circumstances. ALT Academy will make no notifications in this circumstance.
  
- **If the student or production team volunteer receives a positive COVID-19 test result, or becomes exposed to someone that has received a positive COVID-19 test result:**
  - They must refrain from participating in in-person ALT Academy activities and notify their instructor/director outlining the circumstances ASAP.
  - If it is determined that there exists a reasonable possibility that any other persons on ALT premises might have been exposed to an infectious scenario, the situation will be immediately reviewed and logged with the County Health Department. ALT Academy will not share contact information without the permission of the participant or legal guardian.
  - ALT Academy will strictly follow the guidance of the County Health Department as regards to further notices or recommendations for quarantine or other actions for those individuals or groups that have experienced a "Close Contact" as

defined by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>). Should participants in a cast, class or show be exposed to an actively infectious scenario, the participants in that activity will be contacted as directed by the County Health Department.

- ALT staff members will also be advised as appropriate. Should a broader exposure take place or place larger groups at risk, ALT Academy may make appropriate public notifications as guided by the County Health Department.
- **Individuals or families that have been exposed to a confirmed case but have not been onsite for an ALT activity during the entire period of infectious risk as defined by the CDC:**
  - Will not be permitted onsite until after their fourteen-days quarantine period. ALT Academy will not be making public or group announcements in these circumstances.
- **Individuals or families that have tested-positive as an active COVID-19 case, but have not been onsite for an ALT activity during the period of infectious risk as defined by the CDC:**
  - Will not be permitted onsite until cleared by their physician. Provided there is not a risk of ALT community spread, ALT will not be making public or group announcements in these circumstances.
- **Should an active case be discovered while the participant is at ALT:**
  - If a child, the legal guardians must be contacted, and the child immediately transported by the legal guardians to home or care facility. The child should either wait outside the theatre (accompanied by an assigned adult) or wait inside a designated classroom, lobby or studio.
  - If an adult, the individual must immediately leave the facility and return home or to a care facility.
  - The areas used by the infected individual will be cleaned and disinfected before any reuse is permitted.

Unfortunately no organization can guarantee that participants in theatre, sports, camps or any other activity can avoid the risks of COVID-19 infection, and while we are taking reasonable and appropriate measures to mitigate those risks, we should anticipate that there might be members of the ALT Academy family that will test positive and contract this virus. Participants acknowledge that going into the public in the midst of this virus outbreak carries risks, and ALT Academy cannot guarantee that they will not be exposed to or contract COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor and update our COVID-19 protocol over time, and are making all reasonable efforts to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19 while developing the character of youth on our stages and in our classrooms.

## Safety Protocols for ALT Academy Classes/Rehearsals

In order to maximize the safety of ALT Academy students, parents, patrons and staff, the Amarillo Little Theatre has consulted with medical professionals and has thoroughly researched safety measures to create procedures and protocols outlined in this document to ensure that ALT Academy's Classrooms, Dance Studios and Production Rehearsals are opened in a safe and deliberate manner that best protects the health of its students and instructors.

In addition to the protocol outlined below, ALT Academy Teaching Staff will enforce a detailed Staff Safety Protocol. This Staff Safety Protocol currently includes the wearing of masks, the maintenance of a "safe social distance" of six feet, the vigilance for signs of potentially unhealthy students or staff members and appropriate response, the on-going cleaning and sanitizing of all facilities, the wiping down of commonly touched facilities on a regular schedule and other protocols consistent with the Governor's Strike Force recommendations for personnel and facilities for these purposes.

### Release of Liability – Participation Release Form

**IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ALT ACADEMY CLASS/REHEARSAL AND ENTER AN ALT ACADEMY CLASSROOM/STUDIO, ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE COVID-19 PARTICIPATION RELEASE FORM.**

[Click HERE for the Participation Release Form.](#)

#### **NOTE:**

All students must have the COVID-19 Participant Release Form turned into the ALT Box Office prior to the first class. If a student does not have a form filled out on file, the student will not be able to participate in an ALT Academy class or rehearsal.

We are pleased to introduce Safety Protocols for ALT Academy Classes/Rehearsals that will guide the safety procedures and processes for all regular weekly classes/rehearsals ON AND AFTER AUGUST 31, 2020.

#### **General Guidance**

- Amarillo Little Theatre Academy will adhere to all state and local mandates in regards to public safety. As Governor Abbott reexamines the current executive order regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we will also make proper adjustments to class/rehearsal protocol.
- All classes will have a maximum enrollment of 10 students with the exception of

audition-required classes (Show Stoppers Show Choir, Jr. Company, Sr. Company, Sr. Competition Team, and Elite Competition Team).

- Hand sanitizer will be readily available at every classroom entrance for the convenience of all students and instructors.
- Please arrive no more than five minutes early for your class and pick up your student from/leave class on time. This practice will help minimize intermingling of consecutive classes, allowing for safer interactions while at ALT.
- Instructors may take temperature readings with a no-touch thermometer before admitting any students into the classroom/performance space.
- Visitors, volunteers, or any non-participating person without prior permission will not be admitted into the classroom/performance space.
- Following the Center for Disease Control's recommendations...
  - All students as well as instructors will be required to wear a face covering while attending an ALT Academy class and/or rehearsal.
  - In the event that the staff and/or instructor feels it is impractical for a student to wear a face covering (e.g. during dance activity or specific scene work), it may be removed as long as correct social distancing precautions are taken.
- If a student refuses to adhere to any rules concerning the safety of themselves or other students, ALT Academy will respond first with a verbal warning to the student. Upon second violation, the student will be asked to sit out for that day and the legal guardian will be contacted. If there is a third violation (depending on the violation) the child may be excused from the class/rehearsal or the entire program.

Again, we appreciate the trust and confidence of our families to allow us to provide a safe environment for both our students and instructors. We will continue making every effort to provide the safest and most healthy experience possible while continuing to offer quality training and performance opportunities to our students.

We can't wait to have you back!

Revised – 9/14/21

Infection Mitigation Coordinator - Jeffrey Pickens M.D.