



NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL THEATER ACADEMY  
COVID-19 ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES  
*AS OF 1/20/21*

Safety is Omaha Performing Arts' top priority. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nebraska High School Theater Academy issues the following guidelines for schools and adjudicators participating in the in-person adjudication and/or the pre-show evaluation process. We recognize that each school and geographic location face unique circumstances when it comes to their virus mitigation response. Guidelines will be modified as COVID-19 conditions evolve.

**Omaha Performing Arts does not assume responsibility for ensuring that individual schools or adjudicators do or do not comply with guidelines.**

**School Requirements**

For in-person performances schools should:

- Require all audience members and front-of-house personnel to wear masks from the time of audience member arrival through departure.
- Provide adjudicator seating that has at least 6-foot social distancing from other audience members.
- Provide a pathway for audience members to maintain social distancing while within your venue and front-of-house spaces.
- Educate all audience members on health rules and expectations.
- If staging includes performers in the aisles or the house, performers should also be masked and follow 6-foot social distancing from where adjudicators are seated.

Schools should also share their audience expectations on the Production Information Form in order to inform adjudicators of any additional school-specific expectations.

Just a reminder that schools are always welcome to have their musicals, plays and other theatrical events adjudicated virtually - feedback is available for both livestreamed and video recordings of performances. Outdoor performances are also encouraged when possible!





### Adjudicator Requirements

When evaluating a show in-person adjudicators should:

- Wear a mask from arrival through departure.
- Exhibit no signs of illness.
- Adhere to all school-specific audience requirements/directions issued by the school, as communicated in the school's Production Information Form and any directions given on-site whether verbally, through signage, etc.

These requirements also apply to adjudicator guests, if applicable.

If an assigned adjudicator becomes ill or wishes to recuse themselves due to new information (such as changing case counts in either the county/community where the adjudicator or school resides), they are to alert program staff as soon as possible that they are no longer able to adjudicate in-person. We will honor this request and make best efforts to arrange for an alternative adjudicator.

The cooperation of audience members, students, and staff/volunteers is essential for safety precaution implementation. In the event an adjudicator arrives on-site and judges their personal safety compromised by a lack of adherence by others, the adjudicator is under no obligation to stay. Adjudicators should alert program staff as soon as possible in this unfortunate situation. Staff will alert the school contact of this development as soon as possible.

Please contact us at [NHSTA@O-pa.org](mailto:NHSTA@O-pa.org) with questions.

