

Note: This document is as of December 10, 2021 and may be subject to change.

COVID Q&A via Zoom - November 25, 2021

1. Please advise me on the Govt. of Sask. rules for live-music venues. Does everyone in attendance need to be fully vaccinated?

Link to SHA website for more Q & A

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/public-health-orders/proof-of-vaccination-faq>

The Government of Saskatchewan Public Health Measure must be followed for all public live-music venues. This requires the following:

- **Mandatory Masking**
- **Proof of Full Vaccination with Photo ID/or negative COVID test**
(Children under 12 years of age are exempt).

Additional venue policies may also apply. Some venues may only accept fully vaccinated participants (e.g. U of S, Saskatoon where Provincials will be held this year)

SMFA is currently reviewing a standard set of performance protocols and minimum health measures to be followed at all times during festival (proof of vaccination/negative COVID test, masking, barriers for 11 & under singers & 11 & under woodwind/brass players, sanitizing, physical distancing). These protocols/health measures will be provided in the 2022 Festival Guidelines. Additional measures may also be implemented, should a festival choose to do so.

Action Item: It is important that festivals know their venue policies, determine their own additional health measures, and communicate that information to the SMFA office and to their stakeholders (participants, audience, donors etc.).

2. What is accepted as Proof of vaccination?
 - A QR code/MySaskHealthRecord vaccine certificate, either printed, or a mobile device as a screenshot, or in SK Vax Wallet;
 - A printed hard copy of MySaskHealthRecord vaccine certificate with or without a QR code;
 - Wallet cards issued at the time of vaccinations; and
 - A COVID-19 vaccination printout from Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) public health.

Proof of vaccination will also require ID from anyone 18 and older. Youth aged 12-17 will also need to show ID unless accompanied by an adult with proof of vaccination and ID. SK Vax Verifier app may be used to scan QR codes.

Visit www.ehealthsask.ca/MySaskHealthRecord/MySaskHealthRecord/ to get your COVID-19 vaccination certificate and learn more about the SK Vax Wallet app for viewing or displaying your QR code and **SK Vax Verifier app to determine vaccination status.**

3. What is meant by “Fully” vaccinated?

“Fully vaccinated” is when an individual has received:

- The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of Health Canada approved vaccines:
 - Pfizer-BioNtech, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson
- One or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA Health Canada approved vaccine (Pfizer-BioNtech, Moderna).
- Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not approved by Health Canada.

In all instances, the last required dose of the COVID-19 vaccine must be received at least 14 days prior to attending events. Booster shots are required when made available to individuals in order to maintain the “fully” vaccinated status.

4. What is required for a Proof of a Negative Test?

Individuals who do not have proof of vaccination have the option of providing proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within the previous 72 hours.

A self-administered take-home rapid antigen test will not be accepted as valid proof of negative COVID-19 results. The cost for all proof of negative test results for asymptomatic testing will be the responsibility of the individual. Individuals requiring a negative test result have several private options that will provide a rapid antigen test or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for a fee.

A current list of locations and labs offering testing services is on [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca) under Where to Get Tested.

5. What if the venue we are hosting festival at do not enforce the Government of Saskatchewan Health Measures or SMFA Protocols?

Organizations hosting public live-music events are responsible for ensuring that all SHA Public Health Measures are followed or they could face a hefty fine or litigation. Festivals hosted inside schools must also follow SHA Public Health Measures/SMFA Protocols.

6. If I attend a worship service in a faith-based facility, the SHA Public Order does not apply. What if I have an event or run a private business in a faith facility, such an exercise class or a community supper?

Only worship services at places of worship are exempt from proof of vaccination or testing requirements. The requirements **do** apply to other events, such as exercise classes or community suppers, that may also take place in faith-based facilities. This would include our live-music festivals.

7. Do we keep track of vaccine status?

Once status is checked there is no permanent record kept. If a participant is coming and going during an event, their status will need to be checked again upon re-entry. Wrist bands could be distributed at the first check-in, to avoid repeated checking. SMFA will provide wrist bands to festivals at no charge if requested.

8. If someone in the festival has a vaccine exemption, may we accept the exemption?

Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test is required for everyone attending/participating (children under age 12 are exempt, as noted in question #1). Persons with vaccine exemptions are required to provide a negative COVID test.

9. Will participants need to be vaccinated if they come to a venue to be recorded?

In order to protect volunteers providing this service, SHA Public Health Measures/SMFA Festival Guidelines must be followed.

10. As I prepare a letter for schools about the upcoming festival, I am wondering if each member of a school band or choir (12 years & older) will need to provide either their proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test?

Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test is required for everyone attending/participating (children under age 12 are exempt, as noted in question #1).

11. Should all volunteers and committee members show proof of vaccination?

Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test is required for everyone attending (children under age 12 are exempt, as noted in question #1).

12. If we are required to have vaccines to participate in festivals, can we add something like this to the entry form? *We would like to notify all participants who are entering festival that all provincial guidelines and restrictions apply to live performances, including vaccine requirements. Please note that a change in local conditions, such as a COVID outbreak, at the time of festival may require us to cancel a portion or all the festival, which will result in a refund of your entry fee minus a service charge.*

Yes, we encourage a check box on the entry form indicating that participants agree to abide by all SHA Public Health Measures as well as frequent communication of this information to all participants (accompanist, audience, etc.). Information regarding other policies (refunds due to cancellation) made by your festival should also be communicated on the entry form, Festival page on the SMFA website, etc.

13. Do we need to contact trace attendees?

This is optional but not currently required as part of SHA Health measures.

14. Is there a way to add to the COVID waiver form to the entry form, instead of participants being required to download two separate documents?

Check with service provider (MFS, Solarlive, etc.) to see if this is possible. An updated waiver in fillable PDF format is posted on the SMFA website under <https://smfa.ca/guides-order-forms/>.

15. May all performers remove their masks when in the performance area? Are barriers for singers required.

Solo performers who have provided proof of vaccine/negative COVID tests may remove their masks in the performance areas only. SMFA is discussing implementing protocols for 11 & under participants, who are currently exempt from providing proof of vaccine or negative COVID tests. Barriers may be necessary for performers in this age category.

16. What is the SMFA stand on Bands and Choral categories being able to participate in the 2022 Festival with current COVID regulations?

Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test is required for everyone attending/participating (children under age 12 are exempt, as noted in question #1).

SMFA protocols will require Choirs to wear masks and Bands to use bell covers. You may choose to accept Choir and Band entries through audio or video recordings.

17. How have you determined that festivals fall into this category of “live music venue?” Has anyone consulted the health authority for clarification?

SMFA festivals are public live-music events.

18. We are moving towards having an in-person festival this year and we have a vocal teacher who is closely tied to an immuno-compromised individual. She is wondering if we would accept recorded piano accompaniment for her students. For local classes we are prepared to say yes, however I am asking for clarification regarding provincial classes; can performers compete using recorded piano accompaniment?

Non-professional recorded accompaniments may be accepted in 2022 at the district level, if the District Festival chooses, but will not be accepted at the Provincial level. The piano is the instrument to be used for accompaniment except where other options are stated. It is recommended for participants using recorded accompaniment to use their regular/local accompanist when using recorded accompaniment.

19. If we need to cancel our festival, how much time are we required to give the adjudicators? At what point in advance will we still be required to pay them?

Please allow as much notice as possible. We strongly recommend that you have a Plan B in place to move to a virtual format. Total cancellation is a last option with an agreement to fulfill the adjudicator contract(s) at a later date or the following year.

20. May I host one adjudicator in my home overnight during our festival week? We are fully vaccinated.

This would not be recommended. Adjudicators should have an alternative option.

21. May we serve lunch at our venue for our adjudicator and several committee members?

No restrictions on food. We suggest individual packaged food be served (no buffets).

22. What are the present regulations regarding music needed for the adjudicators?

Scanned PDF copies of music are only allowed for virtual festivals. Full copyright regulations should be followed for live-music festivals.

23. What products can be safely used to disinfect the piano between performances?

Roger Jolly suggested alcohol wipes (ie. All Clean Natural found at Sobey's). Also, hydrogen peroxide cleans without leaving residue.

24. Back in the spring there was discussion of having a social media/ group forum (such as a Facebook group) where our music festivals across Saskatchewan could share ideas, ask questions and have ongoing discussions. Will this still be happening? Now that we are beginning to plan our festivals for the 2022 season, this would be extremely beneficial.

The SMFA Board of Directors will discuss the most efficient way to create a networking forum.

25. May we livestream the festival on YouTube/Facebook?

Sanctioned recording/streaming by your festival committee is allowed. Festivals may choose not to record/stream the adjudicator comments. Be sure to check with the adjudicator on this option.

26. We understood from the COVID Q&A Session that all SMFA events must follow the performance guidelines as set out by the SHA. We have looked for these guidelines and have been unable to find a copy. A copy of these guidelines would be very beneficial to us, especially to have on hand during the Festival.

These guidelines, that were in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, have been taken down because they no longer apply. Information on the SHA website is sporadic and difficult to interpret for our events. SMFA is working on gathering information and developing the 2022 Festival Guidelines.

27. Do you have a timeline of when the guidelines for 2022 festivals will be posted? Or, will they be similar to the 2021 ones?

2022 Festival Guidelines will be provided ASAP. Much of the information from this document will be found in the guidelines.