

Eugene O’Neill Theater Center
COVID-19 vaccination and testing policy – uncompensated minors
12/5/23

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website states “COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe, Effective, and Free... Everyone 6 months and older should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine.” The Eugene O’Neill Theater Center endorses this clear guidance and requires that all full-time, part-time, contract, and freelance employees of the O’Neill receive an updated FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine by January 31, 2024 or before beginning employment (whichever comes first).

However, the O’Neill also recognizes that COVID-19 vaccine uptake has been far less than universal, particularly among people under the age of 18. Since minors are unable to make medical decisions for themselves, they are beholden to the decisions of their parents, some of which may be in conflict with the clear CDC guidance regarding universal COVID-19 vaccination. The O’Neill has a mission that includes access for all (including minors); we seek to balance our aspiration that every child have access to our programs with the health and safety of everyone on the O’Neill campus (both those sharing space/air with minors on campus, and those remaining after the minors depart campus).

Therefore, we are adjusting the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for uncompensated minor participants in O’Neill programs. All such minor participants will be required to test negative for COVID-19 on a PCR or rapid antigen test within 24 hours prior to their arrival on campus for the program. In addition to the initial negative test, all minor participants must either

- Receive and provide proof of a current FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccination. *With a diminishingly small number of bona fide exceptions, every American 6 months and older is eligible to receive these vaccines safely and without financial cost. Vaccinated individuals may be required to take additional tests for COVID-19 if they are a close contact of an infected individual, if they experience symptoms, or at the O’Neill’s discretion. There will be no charge for such tests of vaccinated individuals.*

OR

- Pay a \$100 fee and test for COVID-19 daily while on campus participating in the program. *The O’Neill will provide rapid antigen tests and oversight of their use and outcomes.*

A single positive COVID-19 test will result in the removal of any minor, vaccinated or not, from campus and the cancellation of the remainder of their participation in that O’Neill program. In that case, there will be no refunds of any fees related to the program including the testing fee.