



IN-PERSON ADJUDICATION COVID-19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As of August 24, 2021

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards issues the following requirements and recommendations for schools and adjudicators participating in the in-person adjudication process. Requirements will continue to evolve in response to CDC and local health guidelines.

BACKGROUND

We recognize that each school and geographic location face unique circumstances when it comes to their virus mitigation response. The IHSMTA-issued COVID-19 Safety Requirements and Recommendations are meant to give schools flexibility, while also giving adjudicators a minimum amount of assurance of the precautions that will be taken in front-of-house spaces when adjudicating in-person.

REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IN-PERSON ADJUDICATION

For IHSMTA in-person adjudication purposes, the required and recommended mitigation efforts are separated into categories: Minimum Requirements for Schools, Additional Recommendations for Schools, and Minimum Requirements for Adjudicators and Adjudicator Guests.

Minimum Requirements for Schools

- Provide adjudicator seating at least 6 feet from other audience members
- If staging includes performers in the aisles of the theater for any duration longer than an entrance or exit, ensure adjudicator seating is at least six feet away from the performers

Additional Recommendations for Schools

- If in an area of [substantial or high community transmission](#)^{*}, encourage all audience members, students and personnel ages 2 and above regardless of vaccination status to wear face coverings
- If in an area of [low or moderate community transmission](#)^{*}, encourage all unvaccinated audience members, students, and front-of-house personnel ages 2 and above to wear face coverings
- Educate all audience members on health recommendations through various channels, such as school or program website, social media channels, online ticket purchasing, emails, and signage leading to and at the event site.

Note: schools are asked to share their audience expectations on the Adjudication Form in order to also inform adjudicators of any additional school-specific expectations.

Minimum Requirements for Adjudicators and Adjudicator Guests

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards strongly encourages all adjudicators and adjudicator guests to be vaccinated for COVID-19 before attending in-person productions.

Adjudicator and guest requirements for in-person adjudication:

- Exhibit no signs of illness
- Wear a mask or face covering from arrival to departure if unvaccinated and in an area of [low or moderate community transmission](#)^{*},
- Wear a mask or face covering from arrival to departure regardless of vaccination status if in an area of [substantial or high community transmission](#)^{*}
- Adhere to all audience requirements issued by the school, as communicated in the school's Adjudication Form and any directions given on-site whether verbally, through signage, etc.

^{*}See CDC [interim guidance](#) for fully vaccinated people issued on July 28, 2021.

JUDGEMENT CALLS AND FLEXIBILITY

The 2021-2022 program incorporates the following points of flexibility for schools, adjudicators, and the program as a whole:

Virtual Adjudication

Schools unable to meet the minimum safety requirements are invited to have their production reviewed virtually assuming appropriate rights are attained for digital viewership.

Advance Changes or Cancellation

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

Similarly, if a school has to switch its format from in-person audience to virtual audience (or virtual audience only), change production dates, etc. the director should alert program staff as soon as possible.

The Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards also reserves the right to cancel in-person adjudication based on current conditions in the school's area. All efforts will be made to discuss concerns and any mitigating factors with the director before a final decision is made.

On-Site Judgment

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, 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, but schools should note that it is unlikely that program staff will be able to arrange for an alternative adjudicator on such short notice. The school will still be eligible for awards and honors, with calculations adjusted for the total number of completed adjudications.

Note: Des Moines Performing Arts does not assume responsibility for ensuring that individual schools or adjudicators comply with the stated requirements and recommendations.