



Mid-Columbia Ballet
Board of Directors

COVID-19 Protocols for *The Nutcracker* 2021

Decisionmaking Authority for Mid-Columbia Ballet

- **Mid-Columbia Ballet (MCB)** is a nonprofit corporation in the State of Washington and is therefore governed by a Board of Directors.
- **Tri-Cities Academy of Ballet and Music** is a for-profit ballet school that serves as the home of MCB.
- **Debra Pearse Rogo** is the Artistic Director of MCB. In that role, she is responsible for all artistic aspects of MCB. She reports to the Board of Directors.
- **Gaye Wutzke** is MCB's Administrative Assistant. In that role, she supports the Board of Directors in all conduct of business and recordkeeping. She also supports the Artistic Director as needed with administrative functions. She reports to the Board of Directors.
- The **Board of Directors** holds the legal and fiscal liability for MCB.

The MCB Board's COVID-19 Approach to Safety

Given the ever-changing challenges of negotiating health and safety considerations during this pandemic, the MCB Board of Directors has developed a special committee to advise on rules and protocols related to COVID-19.

This committee consists of board members, health care providers, and a Guild representative, with additional consultation from local physicians specializing in infectious disease. The committee endeavors to develop reasonable and practical safety standards, in compliance with local and state regulations, for the purpose of preventing the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

These standards have been developed with careful consideration and synthesis of the most current recommendations from the health department, CDC, and WHO, and are to be employed by all MCB dancers, staff, volunteers, and other personnel for the purposes of all auditions, classes, rehearsals, performances, and other events.

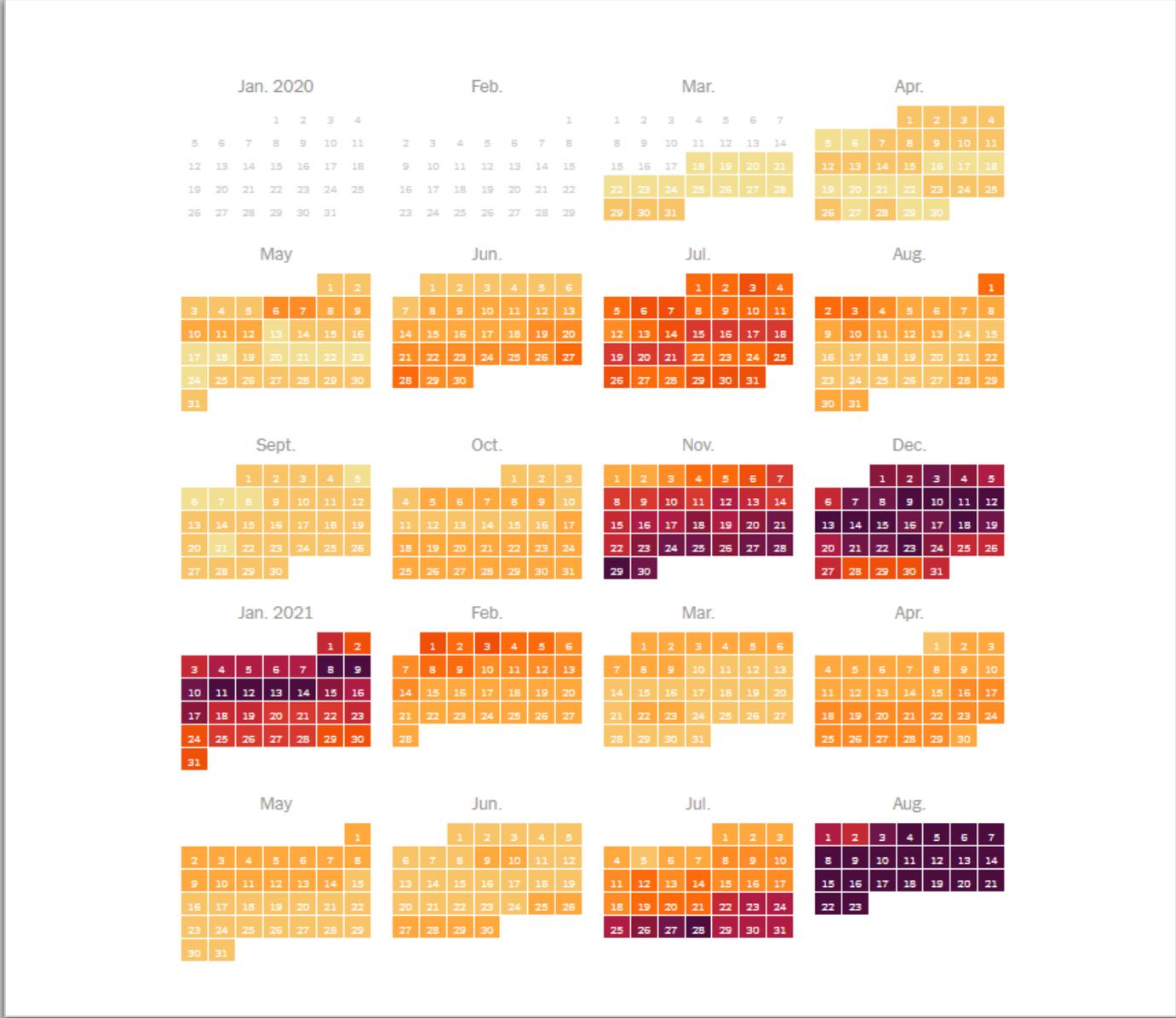
The current COVID-19 situation in the Tri-Cities

• An average of 161 cases per day were reported in Benton County, about the same as the average two weeks ago. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1 in 9 residents have been infected, a total of 23,320 reported cases.

Right now, Benton County is at an extremely high risk for unvaccinated people.

• Cases have stayed about the same recently and are still extremely high. The numbers of hospitalized COVID patients and deaths in the Benton County area have risen. The test positivity rate in Benton County is very high, suggesting that cases are being significantly undercounted.

Because of high spread, the CDC recommends that even vaccinated people wear masks here.



Scale based on Number of New Cases

Current State of Washington COVID-19 Guidelines as of August 23, 2021

Primary Guidance

“Every person in Washington State must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when they are in a place where any person from outside their household is present...”

Exemptions:

“While actively engaged in playing or training for...dance...”

“While actively engaging in a performing arts performance...”

Order 20-03.4 effective August 23, 2021, *Order of the Secretary of Health Amending Order 20-03*

Additional Measures

“Additional local restrictions may apply: **Nothing in this proclamation or in the Secretary of Health’s face covering order prevents any other individual or entity from imposing face covering or other restrictions or requirements in businesses or other locations within the scope of their legal authority.**”

Order 20-25.15 effective August 23, 2021, *Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamations 20-05 and 20-25, et seq.*

MCB Goals for *The Nutcracker* 2021

1

Protect the health of the cast and crew

2

Preserve the performance opportunity for MCB dancers

3

Protect our audience in the Richland High School auditorium

We won't gamble with the health of our cast members, our staff and volunteers, nor the health of the community members in the audience.

Goal #1 – Protect the MCB Cast and Crew

- MCB will abide by the State of Washington mask mandate, which requires masks indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- All staff and volunteer crew members will be required to provide proof of vaccination.
- All auditioners will be asked to provide proof of vaccination to MCB (even if previously provided to TCAB). Auditioners over 12yrs/parents will also be asked to select one of the following options:
 - I am fully vaccinated* and am comfortable performing unmasked
 - I am fully vaccinated* but I prefer to perform wearing a mask.
 - I am unvaccinated but I will be fully vaccinated* prior to the start of production week.
 - I do not intend to be vaccinated or I am too young to be fully vaccinated* prior to the start of production week.
- Per *Order 20-03.4*, “A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen). “

Goal #2 – Preserve the Performance Opportunity for MCB Dancers

The MCB Board of Directors considers strict COVID-19 protocols as the best path to avoid cancellation of *The Nutcracker* 2021. Per the Board's direction, our Artistic Director will take these steps to implement MCB's COVID-19 protocol.

- Following our usual practice, all auditioners will be cast, if possible, when considering ability and availability.
- Casting will consider vaccination status. Roles will be identified where costumes will include masks for unvaccinated cast members.
- All cast members will be masked during rehearsals and when offstage. Only fully vaccinated cast members may remove their masks when they are onstage.
- These Board protocols are subject to the current recommendations in our area.

Goal #3 - Protect our audience in the Richland High School auditorium

- It is not known what rules will be in effect at the time of *The Nutcracker* 2021 performances. MCB will follow the State of Washington's COVID-19 guidance in effect at that time.
- We will have an audience in the RHS auditorium if it is permitted.
 - Under the current guidance, masks will be required for all audience members.
 - We will adhere to the capacity guidelines in effect at the time of the performances by techniques such as leaving alternating rows empty and leaving empty seats between parties.
- If we are not permitted to have an audience but are permitted to perform, the performance will be streamed live and/or recorded for your viewing.

Questions?

If you have questions about MCB's COVID-19 protocols, please contact the Board of Directors. The MCB staff are expected to follow the protocols established by the Board of Directors and should not be questioned or confronted regarding their directions from the Board.

Please direct all questions to mcb.covidquestions@gmail.com

MCB Board representatives are happy to discuss our commitment to a safe experience during *The Nutcracker* 2021.