

Hamilton Heights Darkroom Covid Protocols

Despite City and State relaxing of various mandates, HHD continues to be highly vigilant about Covid safety. We do so in part because social distancing is impossible in our small darkroom. But we also remain vigilant because we are intent on making sure we are appropriately cautious enough so that anyone who wishes to take our classes can feel secure in doing so including individuals who are themselves immunocompromised or live or closely interact with loved ones who are immunocompromised. We appreciate your compliance and cooperation with these requirements.

Vaccination Status and Masking

*Students must be “up-to-date” in their Covid vaccinations (see below for the definition of “up-to-date”) and inform the Board of their status. Prospective students must provide proof of vaccination status to HamiltonHeightsDarkroom.BOD@gmail.com before attendance at their first class. The HHD Board may, in its sole discretion, grant accommodations to the above in certain situations.

*Masks must be worn while in class. K95 equivalent or better masks are preferred but surgical masks are also acceptable.

Infection and Exposure to Infection

*Any student who tests positive for Covid at *any time* shall not return to the darkroom until ten (10) days have elapsed since the positive test result. Additionally, any student who tests positive for Covid within *five (5) days* of having attended an HHD class must notify HHD (via Michael Macioce or any member of the HHD Board of Directors) of their positive status.

*Any student who has a known “close exposure” (e.g. spent time, especially indoor and unmasked, with individuals who subsequently tested positive for Covid) and is planning or scheduled to return to the darkroom within five (5) days should take extra precautionary steps. Examples of precautionary steps include closely monitoring for symptoms, testing (preferably with a PCR test if possible), and making sure to wear a high quality mask (i.e. K95 or equivalent/better) when in the darkroom. When considering the possibility of having been infected after a close exposure, we urge students to err on the side of caution and refrain from attending the darkroom if they feel it is appropriate.

General Risk Reduction

We respectfully request that all HHD students be mindful of the risk of contagion in their everyday lives and – as much as possible given the realities of our current world and personal job and family obligations – make choices that reduce their risk of contracting Covid in the days leading up to attendance at any darkroom class. Some examples of risk reduction include masking even when it’s not specifically mandated (e.g. on planes, when using public transportation, in crowded indoor spaces) and avoiding unmasked indoor interaction with people whom you know are not up-to-date in their vaccination status

Definition of Individuals Who Are “Up-to-Date” in Their Covid Vaccination

- a. They have been “fully vaccinated” with two primary shots of a Covid-19 mRNA vaccine (e.g. Pfizer/Moderna) *or* one primary shot of J&J and their last primary series shot was less than five (5) months ago, *OR*,
- b. *If* their last primary shot was more than five months ago, they are at least two weeks past receiving *at* the Covid vaccine dose that the CDC approved on September 12, 2023 and recommended that all individuals receive for the Fall/Winter virus season
- c. They are ineligible to complete either “a” or “b” above since they had a Covid infection fewer than ninety (90) days ago with Day #1 of that ninety (90) day period being the first day they were symptomatic (or, if asymptomatic, the first day they tested positive) *OR* they had their last “bivalent” dose fewer than thirty (30) days ago.

***These protocols are in effect as of September 24, 2023. When/if they change we will notify you.**