

Hamilton Heights Darkroom Covid Protocols*

Despite City and State relaxing of various mandates, HHD continues to be highly vigilant about Covid safety. We do that in part for our own personal safety since social distancing is impossible in our small darkroom. But we are also doing that 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
- Individuals who live or closely interact with other immunocompromised people
- Individuals who live or closely interact with children too young to be vaccinated

Thus we require that all students meet the following safety precautions:

1. Provide us with electronic proof of being “up-to-date” with your vaccination shots before visiting the darkroom for the first time. To be clear this means:
 - a. You have been “fully vaccinated” with two primary shots of a Covid-19 mRNA vaccine (e.g. Pfizer or Moderna) or one primary shot of J&J and your last shot was less than five months ago OR
 - b. If your last primary shot was more than five months ago, you also are at least two weeks past receiving at least one (1) booster shot.
2. Attest to us that you do not reside with anyone who has *chosen* not to get vaccinated.
3. Attest to us that despite being fully vaccinated you continue to be "aggressively cautious" in terms of Covid *as much as possible* given the realities of our current world and personal job obligations. Thus we expect HHD students to make safe, responsible, and thoughtful choices in their everyday lives including:
 - a. Masking appropriately/wisely even when it's not specifically mandated.
 - b. Avoiding unmasked indoor interaction with people who have chosen not to be vaccinated.
 - c. Testing before class if there is concern about recent potential exposure.
 - d. Not attending class if experiencing any Covid symptoms and unable to adequately test.
 - e. Not attending class and immediately reporting to us if you test positive.

We closed temporarily during the first omicron wave and then cautiously opened again with everyone in masks. With cases dropping we are moving toward soon reverting back to where we were earlier in the year when breakthrough contagion was much less an issue and our knowing and trusting each other gave us the freedom to make masking in class optional given that we are all fully vaccinated. **BUT even when we have optional masking, our most cardinal rule remains: if even one person on any given day, for whatever reason, thinks we should all wear masks in class that particular day, we do so -- no questions asked, no judgements passed. Period. Basically, aside from always being mindful of safety, we also practice simple courtesy in a climate of deep respect.**

4. To keep everyone safe and out of, what's that phrase -- an abundance of caution -- we are only accepting new students who "fit" with #1-3 and only after via email, phone or in-person discussion we feel comfortable and confident inviting them into our group and they feel comfortable and confident joining us.

****These protocols are in effect as of May 1, 2022. When/if they change we will notify you.***