



## NATS Student Auditions Guidance 2021-2022

In preparation for the upcoming season of NATS Student Auditions, Chapter and Region officers are strongly encouraged to review and keep in mind the following joint statement on vaccinations and best health practices:

### **Joint Statement on SARS-CoV-2 Vaccinations and Best Health Practices**

The National Association of Teachers of Singing Voice Science Advisory Committee, the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Performing Arts Medicine Association, the Pan American Vocology Association, Opera America, and National Collegiate Choral Organization strongly recommend that all singing teachers, choral conductors, collaborative pianists, and singers eligible to receive an FDA authorized vaccine<sup>1</sup> follow CDC guidance<sup>2</sup> and become fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

We collectively support public health education efforts at the local, state, and national level that offer accurate information about vaccine efficacy and safety and that encourage all persons to become vaccinated.<sup>3</sup>

We recommend that unvaccinated teachers, conductors, collaborative pianists, and singers continue to follow COVID-19 prevention and mitigation practices that have been effective in reducing the spread of the disease in indoor public areas.<sup>4</sup> These include but are not limited to the use of masks, physical distancing, increased ventilation, reduced contact time, regular cleaning of common surfaces, and vigorous hand washing.<sup>5</sup>

NATS encourages chapters and regions to resume live events and in-person auditions whenever possible, taking into consideration and abiding by requirements of the host institution relative to use of masks, physical distancing, and other protocols. State and local mandates as well as host institution policies may necessitate flexibility with scheduling of auditions.

Regions and chapters with large numbers of participants and/or space limitations or capacity limits imposed by host institutions may find it necessary to host auditions in a hybrid format (some combination of in-person and online auditions). For example, conducting preliminary rounds in an online format and subsequently hosting in-person semi-final/final rounds will provide the structure for equitable evaluation of all students and reduce the number of in-person auditions at a site. Another acceptable alternative, when necessary, might be to conduct an entire category or multiple categories online while holding others in-person. Conversely, evaluating part of a single category of singers online while the remainder are adjudicated in person would not be equitable for the students in that category and this construct should not be used.

Questions about Student Auditions should be directed to the NATS Competitions Coordinator Mark McQuade, NSA Coordinator Dan Johnson-Wilmot, and Vice President for Auditions Robert Wells.