Week of September 20, 2021

**Sarasota Arts Organizations Do Their Part to Keep Our Community Safe**

Nine major arts organizations in Sarasota County are taking action to keep their audiences safe as they welcome them back! These organizations include Asolo Repertory Theatre, Circus Arts Conservatory, Florida Studio Theatre, The Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota Ballet, Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Orchestra, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. By updating their protocols, these organizations are dedicated to protecting their artists, staff, audiences, and community to avoid closing their doors yet again, and jeopardizing jobs!

Their revised protocols include requiring patrons age 12 and older attending a performance indoors to show a recent negative COVID-19 test administered by a medical provider/official testing center. These protocols will become effective Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021.

Learn more [here](#).

**6 Ways to Stay Safe as You Work, Learn, and Play**

Whether you’re working, learning, or playing, please remember to continue taking action to keep yourself, your family, and your community safe. We can all do our part by taking these six easy steps:

- **Get the COVID-19 vaccine.** COVID-19 vaccines are effective. They can keep you from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).
- **Mask up.** If you are infected with the coronavirus and do not know it, a mask is very good at keeping your respiratory droplets and particles from infecting others. Learn more [here](#).
- **Practice social distancing.** Physical distancing means keeping space between yourself and other people outside your household. It is a vital step in helping to slow the spread of this virus. Learn more [here](#).
- **Get tested:** Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19, have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or have been asked to do so by your school, workplace, doctor, or health department. Learn more [here](#).
- **Gather safely:** If you are attending a gathering, think about the steps you need to take to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19. Gathering virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice. Learn more [here](#).

**Suncoast COVID-19 Stats Week of September 20, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>7 Day Rolling Ave. of Daily New Cases</th>
<th>A Population Aged 12 with at Least One Vaccination Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>last wk: 147 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeSoto</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>last wk: 46 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>last wk: 351 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>last wk: 306 75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 is not going away any time soon. Recently, cases in Southwest Florida and the four county region have spiked as a result of the delta variant. Encourage your family, friends, stakeholders, clients, and others to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best protection against the variants, including delta.

**CONTACT US**

Please forward this to your network. When you have stories about overcoming and thriving during COVID-19, please send them to Hannah Saeger Karnei at: HSaegerKarnei@thepattersonfoundation.org

#COVID19 @ThePattersonFdn