2022 Big Top Tour COVID-19 Policy

At Circus Smirkus we strive to create a safe and healthy environment for our troupers, staff, volunteers, and audience members.

What follows are guidelines and protocols for the safest possible operation of the Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour in this phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These protocols apply to all troupers and staff. They will be in place throughout the summer and will not be scaled back once our programs start. They may be increased if local, regional, and/or national public health guidelines become more restrictive.

Circus Smirkus retains the absolute right to deny admittance to anyone we deem to pose a health risk to themselves or other troupers because of possible COVID-19 symptoms or exposure.

Circus Smirkus requires proof of full vaccination (including boosters as recommended by CDC) against COVID-19 with a CDC or WHO authorized vaccine for all staff, campers, troupers, and volunteers.

Audience members must show proof of full vaccination (including boosters as recommended by CDC) against COVID-19 with a CDC or WHO authorized vaccine, or show proof of a negative rapid antigen test result taken on the day of the performance.

Masks are required at all times for all guests ages two and up, regardless of vaccination status, in the big top tent and concessions tent when not actively eating or drinking. Guests who refuse to keep their masks on over their nose and mouth will be asked to leave the venue without a refund. Audience members will not be allowed to enter the venue without a mask or if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

PRE-ARRIVAL

Pre-arrival behaviors and testing are two of the most essential elements in keeping everyone at Circus Smirkus programs safe this summer.

For the period of seven days before arriving at Circus Smirkus, troupers and staff should restrict behaviors to low-risk activities only. This means wearing a mask and social distancing with anyone outside your household, and minimizing your contacts as much as possible. See the chart below for examples:

OK!	- Outdoor Activities
OK, BUT USE CAUTION	- School and work requirements - Medical Appointments - Circus training and other indoor activities that enforce masking - Funerals, Weddings, Graduations - Using Public Transportation
PLEASE AVOID	- unmasked indoor public gatherings

Please do your best to limit your contacts and avoid risky situations and behaviors. If possible, have your whole household avoid places where germs spread easily.

During the 7 days before arriving at Smirkus, please monitor for symptoms recognized by the CDC for COVID-19 including cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, fever, headache, nausea, loss of taste or smell, sore throat. Should troupers experience any of these symptoms (even if you think it's allergies), parents/guardians will be required to report them immediately to the Tour General Manager, who will work with our health professionals to determine whether the trouper can be cleared to come to the Big Top Tour.

Families are required to disclose their trouper's exposure to anyone known to have COVID-19, whether that exposure is discovered before arriving in Greensboro or after the trouper's arrival.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

While Circus Smirkus will not discriminate against any participant or staff member on the basis of a pre-existing condition, some conditions place an individual at higher risk of experiencing severe health complications if COVID-19 is contracted. Participants and staff with significant pre-existing conditions will be required to submit documentation that they have discussed the risks of attending with their primary care provider.

TRAVEL TO THE CIRCUS BARN

Travel to Circus Smirkus should be as direct as possible. Travel should be single day trips with contactless behaviors along the way. If public transport is the only option, please wear an N-95 or KN-95 mask to minimize risk of contracting COVID-19.

DROP-OFF

- ★ Families are asked to bring only troupers and parents/guardians to drop-off.
- ★ A staff member will do a health check with troupers and families upon arrival::
  - ○ Has the trouper had a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory symptoms in the past week?
  - ○ Has the trouper spent time with or been exposed to anyone who has been sick with COVID-19 or any other infectious illness?
- ★ Families will be allowed out of their vehicles, but must wear a mask and may not enter buildings.

TESTING

A rapid antigen COVID-19 test will be required at drop-off at The Circus Barn.

All staff and troupers will test with rapid antigen tests on a weekly basis for the duration of tour.

Troupers: please bring with you at least one 2-test kit for drop-off. Please contact tour@smirkus.org if you are not able to obtain tests.

We will provide weekly tests for staff and troupers on the road and at the barn. To help us manage the costs of testing, we appreciate families supplying as many as you're reasonably able to obtain.

Should any trouper or staff member test positive, they will be immediately isolated. Any positive troupers will be required to go home. Any staff member who is not able to go home will be provided accommodations to isolate. After isolating for five days, if they are symptom-free and receive a negative test result, troupers and staff will be allowed to return.

MASKS

For the first four days after arrival at the Circus Barn, troupers and staff must wear masks while indoors or in close proximity to others in tents. One day four, they will be tested. After testing negative on day four, if no symptoms are exhibited, masks do not need to be worn while at the Circus Barn. Whenever off-site, and while on tour, all troupers and staff will be required to wear masks while in indoor public spaces. We ask that all staff and troupers take these mitigation measures seriously; they are crucial for everyone's safety and for the success of Tour. Performers will not be masked while performing. Staff and audience members must wear masks while in the big top and the midway tent.

VISITOR POLICY

All visitors to The Circus Barn must be pre-approved by the Tour General Manager, Executive Artistic Director, or Associate Artistic Director.

Visitors must show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and wear a mask at all times. Visitors will not be permitted in indoor spaces.