



Welcome Back to Ford's Theatre!

Level 1 Reopening: COVID-19 Safety Procedures and Protocols

Ford's Theatre is committed to the health and safety of our visitors, staff and volunteers. These procedures are intended to maximize safety in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Procedures have been developed in accordance with guidelines provided by D.C. Health, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Alliance of Museums, the American Industrial Hygiene Association and other industry guidelines. The procedures are subject to change and will be regularly reviewed for effectiveness, compliance with regulatory guidance and best practices as the science continues to evolve. To ensure the safety of you and our staff, we also ask that you comply with any and all safety instructions given to you by our staff during your visit.

For the latest safety information, visit www.fords.org/welcome-back.

Safety Enhancements

Capacity Management



To prevent crowding and lines, Ford's Theatre is requiring advance reservations for the museum and theatre. Per D.C. Health guidelines, we are limiting entry to 25 visitors per hour during our Level 1 Reopening. This is 12.5% of our normal operating capacity in the museum space. Patrons are limited to six (6) tickets per order to ensure there are no large groups on site. Due to capacity restrictions based on square footage, the Petersen House and Aftermath Exhibits remain closed at this time. An announcement will be made when we determine a reopening date for those parts of the site.

Physical Distancing



Visitors will be required to practice physical distancing while waiting in line outside the building, upon entry into the building and throughout the site. We have added signage and floor decals at key points on site to remind visitors of distancing guidelines. We have also instituted a one-way path through the site to minimize face-to-face passing. Plexiglass barriers are installed in appropriate places across the site to protect staff and visitors.

Reduction in Touchpoints



Advanced ticket sales and low-contact check-in reduce transaction times between visitors and staff. Acoustiguides are currently unavailable, and touch-screen interactives are turned off.

High-touch surfaces such as door handles and elevator buttons will be disinfected hourly.

No Sit-Down Programming



We will not offer formal sit-down Ranger talks during Level 1 of our reopening. Stationary indoor seating for extended periods of time is still considered a higher-risk activity. Therefore, a Park Ranger will be in the theatre to answer your questions as you walk through. The Park Ranger will ensure that they are socially distant from you.

Ford's Theatre is also not producing any plays during our initial reopening.

New Precautions for Visitors, Staff and Volunteers



Temperature Checks

Ford's Theatre will employ a no-contact temperature check for all visitors entering the building. No personal or identifying information is stored through our wellness screening system.

Any visitor who registers a 100.4°F body temperature or above will be checked twice more. If, after three temperature screenings, a visitor still registers a fever-grade temperature, that visitor will be asked to reschedule their visit for another date. A list of local COVID-19 testing sites and hospitals will be available upon request. This information does not constitute a recommendation in favor of any particular medical care providers on behalf of Ford's Theatre.



Wellness Checks for Staff

Employees and volunteers are subject to health screening questions, as well as a temperature check, before entering the building. Employees and volunteers experiencing any symptoms of illness (including fever, coughing, shortness of breath, and body aches) are asked to remain at home. Employees and volunteers exhibiting indication of illness upon their arrival or during their shift will be asked to go home and remain in quarantine until they have passed the self-screening outlined here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>



Personal Protective Equipment

All staff, volunteers and vendors are required to wear a face covering to enter the site. They also have the option to wear a face shield in addition to the mask. The District of Columbia Mayor's Order 2020-080 requires that all individuals ages three (3) and up wear masks when outside private homes. For the full Mayor's Order, see <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/maskorder>. Per D.C. health guidance, masks are required to enter the site for all visitors ages three (3) and up.

If you do not have a mask, let our staff know and we will provide you with one. This is to protect both you and others around you from any droplets you may expel while talking, coughing or sneezing. The CDC lists wearing a mask as one of the most effective things you can do to protect yourself and help save lives.

Disposable gloves are available for staff to use when coming into contact with any visitor. Staff have been trained in the CDC-recommended method of using and disposing of gloves.



Restrooms

Restrooms on site are open to ticketed visitors who have passed the health screening procedure for entry. Visitors are asked to maintain safe distance in the restrooms and wash their hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds per CDC guidelines after using the restroom.



Hand Hygiene

Sanitizing dispensers are located in key areas throughout the site for staff and visitor use. Staff are required to disinfect their hands according to CDC instructions regularly throughout their shift, including after using the restroom, sneezing, coughing, blowing their nose or disposing of gloves.

We recommend that you take a break during your visit to wash your hands in the restroom or disinfect them with one of the hand sanitizing stations we have installed around the site. Please make sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for twenty (20) seconds after using the restroom. We also recommend disinfecting your hands after touching any objects that may be touched by other members of the public.



Signage

Signage will be posted throughout the site with reminders regarding masks, hand hygiene and physical distancing.



Contact Tracing

The local DC Contact Trace Force has requested that all businesses maintain a record of individuals in the building for 30 days after their visit. This is to assist their team in contacting anyone who may have been exposed to an individual found to have COVID-19. When purchasing your ticket, you will be asked to supply a name, phone number, and email address for one adult in your party. If requested by the local contact tracing team, this information will be provided to the D.C. government. Ford's Theatre will otherwise never distribute, publish, or sell your information.

New Precautions for Visitors, Staff and Volunteers (continued)



Water Fountains

For the safety of staff and visitors, water fountains on site have been disabled. Visitors are welcome to bring bottled water on site with them.

Cleaning

We have increased our daily cleaning crew. Whereas we normally have one (1) staff member cleaning the site on a daily basis, we will now have three (3) cleaning continuously throughout each day.



The site is on a deep-clean schedule as recommended by the CDC. We have also instituted a fifteen (15)-minute break between each entry time so that the cleaning staff can disinfect all high-touch surfaces. This includes elevator buttons, stairwell handrails, door handles and doorknobs, sink handles, benches and trash receptacle touchpoints.

As there are different disinfection guidelines for fabric surfaces than for hard or nylon surfaces, we will not permit any visitors to sit in the seats in the historic theatre during our Level 1 Reopening. A limited number of folding chairs will be available during your visit if you need to rest before exiting the building. These chairs will be disinfected between each group of visitors.

In addition to our cleaning staff's new protocols, we have also supplied our Visitor Services and Ticket Services staff with CDC-approved disinfectant to sanitize any high-touch areas regularly as well as any items used in the course of their shift. Staff are instructed to disinfect their work areas thoroughly at the start and end of their shifts.

Every effort will be made to intercept deliveries of mail and packages outside the front door. Deliveries will immediately be removed from public areas for storage.



Training

All staff will receive comprehensive training on these new policies and procedures related to COVID-19.

Accessibility

If you require any accessibility accommodations, please email access@fords.org in advance of your visit.

Wheelchairs are available to borrow while on site. The wheelchairs are disinfected after every use.



We ask that all visitors use the stairs unless an elevator is required for accessibility reasons. If you require the use of an elevator, please alert our staff when you arrive.

We know that masks can make lip-reading difficult for the deaf and hard of hearing. If you are having trouble understanding our staff, please alert us to the issue and we will make an accommodation for you so that you may have a successful visit.