

PCDC COVID Survey Responses.

As the PCDC Board considers modifying the COVID Safety policies we decided that it would make sense to get feedback from our members and attendees out our current policy and possible changes to the policy.

Invitation to take the survey was sent to 755 Email addresses on Oct 7. We received 176 Responses by Oct 22

The survey was sent to the PCDC Membership and Everyone who had attended a PCDC event since July 2021

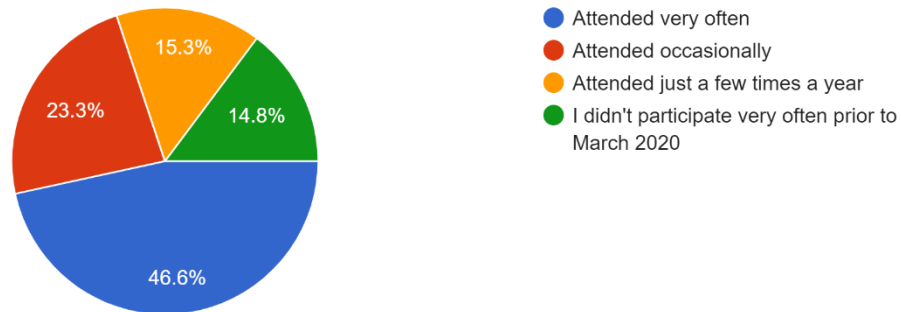
Here are the charts accounting for the responses to the questions.

The Raw data, minus the names of people who responded may be found at:

<https://pcdc.fun/files/2022-10-22-PCDC-COVID-Policy-Survey.csv>

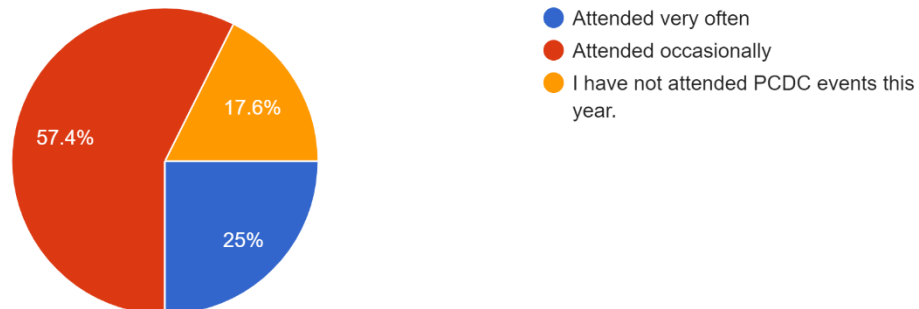
Prior to the COVID Pandemic (before March 2020), how often did you attend any in-person PCDC event?

176 responses



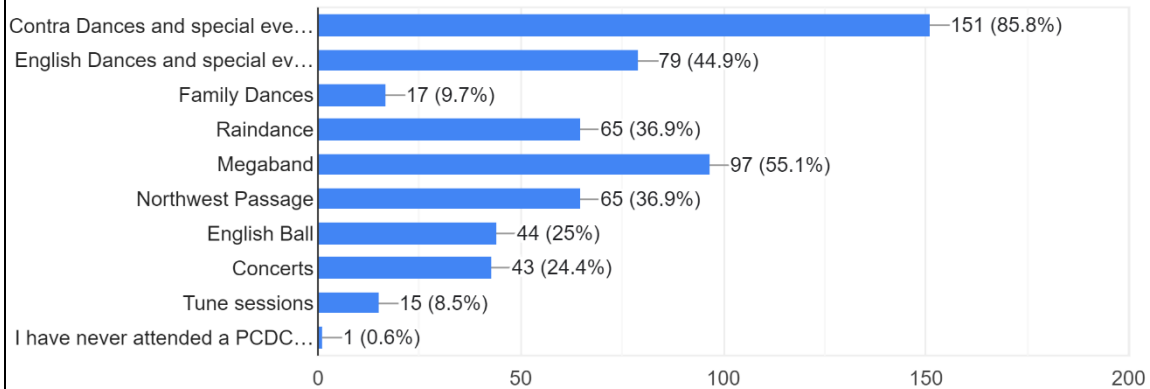
Since the reopening of PCDC events in April 2022, how often have you attended any in-person PCDC events?

176 responses



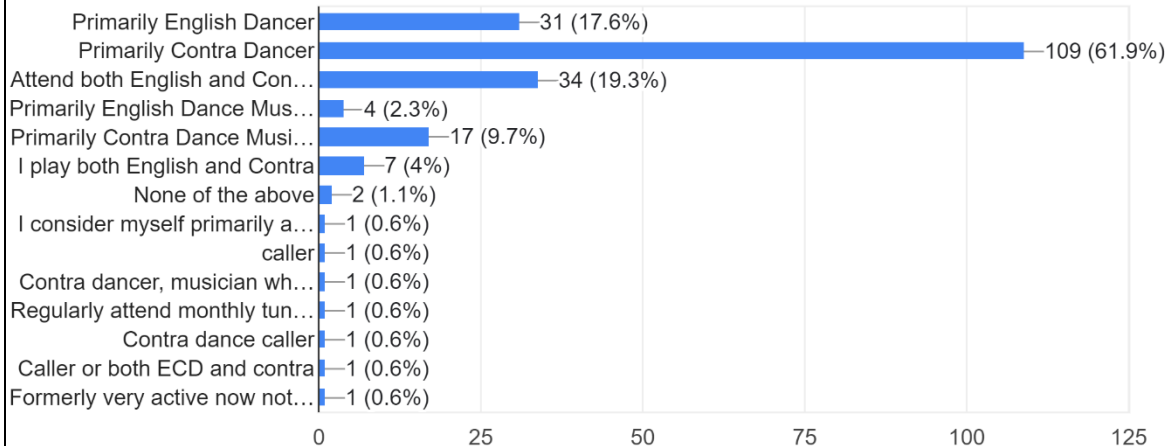
Which PCDC events (either prior to the pandemic or now) have you attended? Please check all that apply.

176 responses

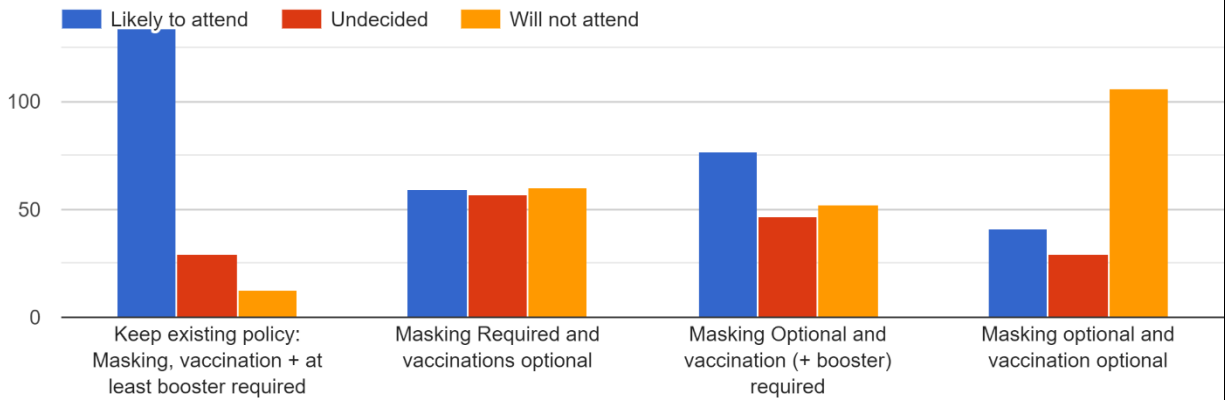


Which of the following best describes your participation in PCDC dance and music events? Check all that Apply.

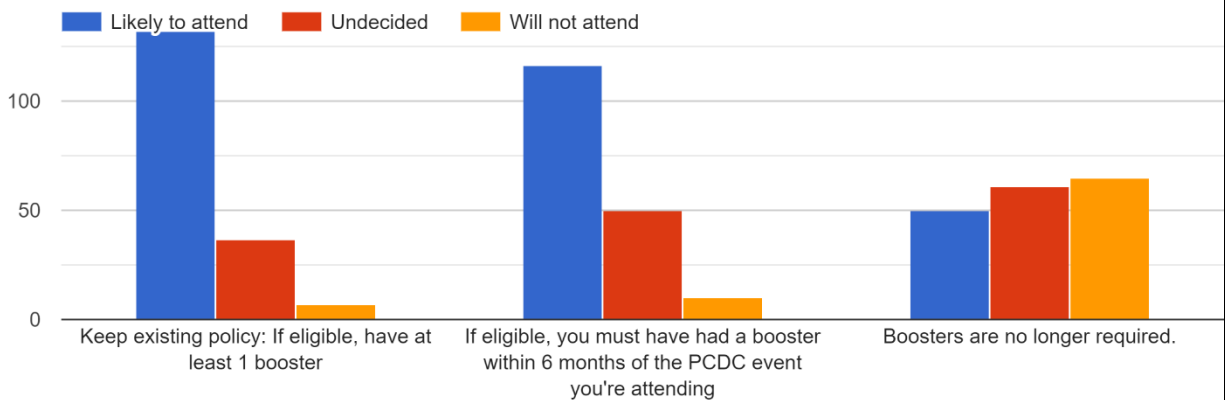
176 responses



The current PCDC COVID Safety Policy states that a well fitted mask must be worn at all times except for drinking or eating, and that everyone must get a booster. How likely are you to attend a dance if:

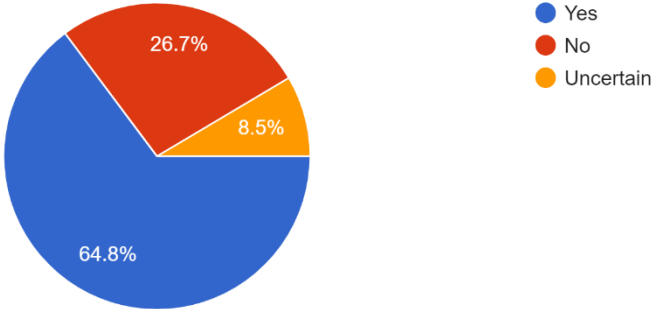


Referencing boosters: There have been several boosters available since the beginning of the Pandemic. The PCDC Policy is that if eligible, everyone must have a booster. How likely are you to attend if:



Are you a PCDC member?

176 responses



Replies to requests for comments / feedback on the following pages.

Optional: Is there anything you want to tell us about your attendance prior to March 2020 or since April 2022?

Very Enjoyable.

My attendance has fluctuated with covid risk levels, and the mask + vaccine policy helps me feel safe dancing

I have only attended dances during summer months as I live elsewhere in winter.

I do not make the trip from Seattle to Portland very often these days. I do however, line knowing it is possible. I went to NW Passage, I was very happy that vaccines, masks and testing were required.

I don't live out of town, or else I would participate more often.

Since April 2022 I've attended mostly English, because that's what worked w my schedule and weather. In cooler temps here, I hope to attend more contra dances. Contra is especially challenging wearing N95 masks in warm weather.

I'm from Seattle - so special events only, typically just the English ball

I has been extremely difficult traveling from and to Hillsboro during road construction on highways and over crossing street's especially when I bring a friend who lives in Beaverton. Maybe the drive will improve soon!

I am new to Portland and have been recently invited to come by a new friend.

Nope.

Glad to be dancing again just need to come every week.

I loved the concert I went to. And I have really appreciated the masking policy, making things feel so much safer. BTW I have never gone super often because I live out of town, but go to the special events and occasionally a regular dance. Thanks for all you do to keep the music and dancing alive.

I played at open band contra dances on fifth Saturdays.

I only attend dances occasionally or for special events as I live in Seattle.

I love PCDC dances!!!

I had just moved to Oregon several months before the pandemic and didn't attend many dances before everything was shut down.

I danced almost every Saturday Contra dance.

I moved to Portland in January 2020.

Since April 2022 I work out of town part of year & unable to attend as much, also live a bit further from portland now

I do attend dances with masks required because I love to dance, but I dance less and leave earlier if masks are required. It is WAY more fun to dance WITHOUT masks and I would attend much more and dance more without masks. Please try an occasional dance without masks and see how attendance is! Plus it would be LOVELY!!!!

I am in Portland just a few months per year, and attend most of the dances held while I am in town.

The pandemic made me realize how much I love and missed English Country dancing!

Moved here March 2022

I thought the protocols were excellent

I was not a local resident, so the question is not relevant.

It's a longer travel distance from Eugene.

I live in Bend; otherwise I'd attend more often.

I used to consider myself primarily a contra dancer who also dances English, but since the pandemic I have almost exclusively danced English.

I'm a wimp at driving distances, so Seattle (home) to Portland is difficult. I've only been to a Megaband dance or two, and called one dance at Fulton in June '22.

Didn't live in the area.

Masks prevent participating

I feel the current policy is exclusionary, whereas prior to March 2020 everyone was welcome

I did go to a few dances but there were enough people unmasked that I didn't go back.

I live in Canada only come to 2 day and longer events.

I will not attend dances until there is no risk of transmission. The long-term danger of this disease is just too awful.

I live in Eugene, so that plays kind of a big role in how often I can come up to dances.

Contra dancing at Fulton Hall is, in my mind, a very Covid-risky event and I a very risk-adverse person.

I truly love contra dance, have danced all

over the country and believe that contra dance has helped me maintain my sobriety and a healthy lifestyle.

Primarily attended Megaband. I live in Eugene

I am from Southern Oregon so only attend for weekends or if I happen to be in the area.

Pretty to very regular contra dancer w exception of this summer. It's been busy.

I had just returned to contra dancing in early 2020 after many years of absence, and began attending regularly until the pandemic closed everything down. I was so happy when the dances reopened, and I have attended pretty regularly since.

Before 3/20, I went to all the Fulton dances, Polish Hall for Joyride monthly, five Cascade Promenade dances/year, all special dances at the Norse Hall, sometimes Contra-In-The-Couve (RIP!) and maybe Hillsboro once/year. I danced at least once/week and felt really blessed to have so much dance in my life!

I live out of town so come to call or attend special events or when I'm in town

Optional: Is there anything you'd like to tell us about masking requirements?

N95 or similar mask should be required

I prefer to wear a mask to protect myself. I live out of town and know very few dancers, and don't associate with any on a regular or irregular basis, so just want to be safe, and not bring anything home to friends and family.

I'm grateful for people following the requirements even though they're a pain. Thank you!

Would prefer that N95 or equivalent masks be required. No cloth masks and no blue surgical masks.

Sadly, I feel it is too soon to unmask at dances. I have managed to avoid covid thus far and I would like to remain that way. Covid numbers are likely to increase not decrease as we head into winter and more indoor activities. Review this again in the spring but stay the course until then. This is not the time to be changing and ruin the success that has been done.

Masking I think is of a secondary importance to me. Proof of taking vaccines and booster I think should be non negotiable. However, I will probably start wearing mask again during flu season having suffered a few dangerous bouts during the last ten-fifteen years where my local flu shot did not prevent me from getting the flu. Of course these illnesses occurred during close proximity to large dance gatherings out of state like the Dance Flurry (NY) or LEAF Fall Festival (NC) where I was no doubt exposed to different strains, but think the addition of a mask would have helped limit my exposure.

Would prefer not to have the masking requirement, but to make it optional.

I'm currently not coming to contra dances because of the mask requirement. I'll be more likely to come back more frequently when I don't have to wear a mask.

Do away with

Dancing w masks isn't easy, but I understand it is safer for all. Whenever the committee decides it's safe enough not to wear masks, I think more people will attend.

Although I will continue to attend if masks are required, I STRONGLY prefer that they be optional.

I look forward to the day when I no longer have to wear a mask to dance, but would be uncomfortable with the idea of dancing with un-vaxxed people unmasked.

Masks are a pain in the as....er....rear. If it can be shown that vaccinations and boosters are all that is required, then I think that will be sufficient going forward.

I feel that masking is working to keep everyone healthy so we can continue to dance. As long COVID is out there and we're dancing, I will continue to wear a mask to protect me, my partner, and other dancers.

masking everyone is, in my humble opinion, the best policy for an indoor event.

I do not feel the need to dance with masks since I stay up to date with my boosters, but will always wear one as long as that is the policy and/or if another dancer requests it. I want to protect our community.

We still need to be masking to protect each other, our families and our community.

Thanks for working to keep her safe and give us a chance to voice our opinions

If keeping the masking requirements, would be nice to monitor that everybody really wears their mask appropriately.

I believe that it should be optional. We should have the freedom to choose.

Masks really help.

I think at this point, continuing to use masks is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I would prefer not to wear a mask while playing in a band but I will do so if it is required.

Keep masking mandate for safety

Masks are an absolute requirement for me.

I don't find them a problem. I keep my mask in place as long as I'm in the building.

Due to the number of breakthrough infections with vaccines, the masking requirement is much more important to me than the vaccine requirement. I would feel better about calling if the band were required to wear a mask.

Prefer masking optional and please allow cloth masks without a 2nd medical mask. I'm allergic to most of the chemicals and papers used in the KN and surgical masks and still trying to find one that doesn't cause a reaction.

I hope you keep the mask requirement!

Health makes dancing with a mask difficult.

I think masks are very important for keeping us safer. I still wear one in stores etc.

Prefer masking til more clarity with fall weather and possible surge

Both masking & vaccines (booster within 6 mos) are crucial to me as a health care provider, a person over 65, & as a person sharing housing with partner who is going to be immunosuppressed for at least another 18 months of maintenance cancer treatments. Also am concerned re "long covid" potential (including cognitive impairment!), even from very mild cases of covid. Will not dance without these (masks & boosters) in place! 😞

Stifles breathing and contributes to over heating.

I would very much appreciate not having to wear a mask. Covid is here to stay, I have had it twice, it does not concern me.

It's difficult to dance with a mask on. But better than no Contra at all!

The last few months have taught us that masking really works to prevent the spread of covid on the dance floor.

Please keep them in place until there's a permanent vaccine against SARS-COV2.

Impedes breathing - time to move on.

Dancers should be required to wear N95 or KN95 masks. Flimsy surgical masks and cloth masks should not be allowed.

I believe in the value of masks, but by restricting air they make it hard to dance. Not seeing face reduces the enjoyment of being at a dance. Masks make conversation difficult when it is also noisy.

As the virus is now endemic, and mask usage in the wider world is rapidly disappearing, I believe continuing to require masks at dances is largely a pointless and futile gesture. Wearing a mask is uncomfortable, and diminishes the dance experience.

Although it's not fun wearing them, they work and keep most of us safe.

Dancing in a mask is difficult for me. Hard to breathe and chatting is almost impossible.

Dancing so close together with so many people breathing hard from exertion, sweating, and touching each other we are practically guaranteed to share germs. I think it's best to do what we can to keep each other healthy. For things like concerts I'd be willing to attend if other people were vaxxed but masks were optional as long as the hall had good ventilation and spacing since I could keep my own mask and mind my distance. Dancing, since faces are so close together though, I would not attend at this point if people were not masking.

Please get rid of them

I appreciate the safety of masking, but it does make it hard to dance with one on. It has limited my attendance and my joy.

I believe at this point masks should be optional.

Would attend more often if masking not required

Now that they are easily available and come in so many different styles, and the research is there, should N95 masks or equivalent be required? Other contra dances require them

Vaccination reduces the odds of transmission only 50%. N,KN95 masks increase the exposure time needed for transmission 10-20 fold. I think a vaccination policy helps to keep people away who are indifferent or sloppy in their behavior in general including away from the dance floor. But does not otherwise contribute much to avoiding mass spreading events.

I wear glasses. It's uncomfortable to wear a mask with glasses. It's uncomfortably hot to dance while wearing a mask. I won't attend dances if masks are required

Masking is a good idea now, but that may change as community spread falls off in the future.

Masks, at this point, are nothing but theater.

Critical. Accounts primarily for the difference in transmission rate at NWP (0%) and LoL (28%).

I have 2 colleagues at work who were out this week with Covid, so I think we still have to be careful.

I find it extremely difficult and uncomfortable to dance in a mask, especially contra. I think we should follow CDC and OHA guidelines and have masks be optional.

I _know_ they're a drag, but they keep people safe.

Dancing with a cotton mask is not uncomfortable for me; artificial materials bother me when I sweat. Masking with distancing is great for reducing respiratory infections of all sorts. Neither is as effective without the other. Having lots of unscented alcohol sanitizer, at entry and e.g. on the Fulton and Polish stages at the head of each line, might be useful; I didn't see that the one dance I've made since reopening.

Masking is unnecessary

With a well-fitted N95 mask I find I have trouble breathing just while singing, and wearing a tight-fitting mask while dancing would just be too much air restriction. I'm fully vaccinated (3 boosters, including the Omicron one) but would likely not attend dances requiring masks.

I feel most comfortable attending events that require an n-95 or equivalent mask, and ask dancers to take food and beverages outside the hall.

Please don't make people choose between safety and doing something they love.

I would really like to see people allowed to make their own choices

I think that KN95 or N95 masks should be required for indoor events as they are the most effective.

I would like masking to be optional.

It seems clear from the west coast events that happened this summer that turned into COVID events that masks are a very effective way to prevent its spread.

Masks work for germs, smoke, dust and pollen. I will keep wearing mine.

Masking reduces transmission. Good masks (N95) reduce oxygen intake, which makes athletic activity, like dancing, difficult.

I believe that cloth masks offer no protection. Surgical or N-95 or KN-95 masks should be required if masks are required.

I don't mind masking. I might keep doing it even if the official policy changes.

I agree that wearing a well fitting mask is critically important to prevent the spread of or an infection of Covid, whatever variant.

It's difficult to breathe while

dancing (exercising) with a mask on. Generally, carbon dioxide is a waste gas, meant to leave our bodies. I'm vaccinated and responsible for my own health decisions. We all take risks with our health every single day. The CDC recently changed policy on masks in medical offices. We are not all idiots who need to have a dance committee make health decisions for us. If people want to smoke cigarettes or shoot heroine, that's really up to them at this point. Alcohol is legal, yet it kills over 100,000 people in our

country every year, and no one is standing at the checkout, wringing their hands and trying to prevent adults from purchasing it.

Masking seems necessary, but it greatly reduces my ability to dance and enjoy the dances I do. Some things I did before the pandemic I am not doing with the mask requirement in place (English Country Ball and Contra dancing). I wonder, considering the amount of actual contact, especially hands, whether masking is necessary with vaccinations and boosters required (I have no research results on this).

Masks are not much fun but probably our best protection against spread

If masking were to be optional I would feel more comfortable if everyone was tested.

I think we are ready to make masks optional. My Undecided was because there was not an option for me to relate this.

I am really tired of dancing in a mask, but it still seems to be the safest option. (And dancing in a mask is better than not dancing!)

I think wearing a mask is still important for dancing and dancing English with a mask works alright. Contra is too aerobic for me to be able to dance very much in a mask. At the present time I would continue masked English dancing, but will not attend masked or maskless contra dances

I strongly prefer we keep the masking requirements for dancers. I don't mind if folks on stage are unmasked.

I thought masks would make it uncomfortable for dancing, but I have found it to be easier than I expected. I continue to wear a mask when shopping etc due to friends with high risk situations.

I was happy to mask at first in order to bring back any dancing but at this point they really do hinder the experience. I would not give anyone any grief if they chose for themselves to wear a mask while dancing.

Given the strong likelihood of viral spread from even one unmasked infected person at a contradance, I think the masking requirement is appropriate as long as covid continues to spread in the local community and 2nd and 3rd booster rates remain low.

Drop the masking requirement and I'll start going again and rejoin PCDC. My spouse is a healthcare director who works w/people at higher-risk to getting-COVID-and-getting-stronger-symptoms and shares this position. We're each fully vaxxed with two boosters and keep up on our COVID shots. This year we went to a couple of concerts and one dance.

We don't like wearing masks but we feel it is safer.

Seems to be working well.

I am mostly ready to attend without mask requirements; however, if community transmission rises, I might not feel as comfortable, but probably would attend and would personally wear a mask

the one time we went in these end times, masking wasn't enforced.

Social dancing is a high-risk activity. I will not attend without masking requirements.

Optional: Is there anything you'd like to tell us about vaccination and booster policies?

Having been vaxxed and boosted three times, I feel safe. While I encourage others to do so, it's their choice, and their risk if they choose to attend.

Within six months of the event seems strange as so far that hasn't been feasible - boosters as available/recommended makes more sense to me if that route were chosen

Would prefer these be kept in place.

I would love to come back and start dancing again. Trying to not feel afraid of getting sick (fully vaccinated and boosted). Dancing with a mask would be difficult, and yet helps keep us safe...so hard dilemma for me.

I wish people would do this but I realize many will not. I am more comfortable and more likely to attend knowing at least the main vaccines and 1 booster is required (or a medical note why the person cannot do this).

I believe in the common good and in the value of vaccinations. I feel it is incumbent upon us all to not only value our own health, but to value the health of all members of the community who are participating in the dances.

Vaccination requirement policies are good.

Please make whatever decision the community feels comfortable with, but I don't need public event organizers to monitor this anymore.

Keep

I think people who don't get Vax and booster take unnecessary risk... that is their choice, but it puts others at risk too, as a result.

I have no insurance, so I will not get a booster unless they are once again funded by the government.

Vaccinations and boosters definitely.

Seems less likely someone will have as high a viral load if they have recent boosters, and less likely likely to get other vaxxed and boosted people sick, so it's good to be boosted recently

Because of the nature of our activity, I feel vaccination and booster is another way to keep us healthy and dancing.

it is preferable

Vaccines and booster shots should always be required.

The best available health measures should be required unless unsafe for an individual.

Thanks for all you do to keep us dancing in a way that hopefully all dancers feel safe

I have waited on the second booster due to the nature of the limited research done and quick approval process, where they made exceptions to push it through. The efficacy seems to be quite low still. My understanding is that I don't feel requiring boosters esp the newest ones, makes our community safer. From what I heard, it's mostly to protect the individual person who may have had a booster. On the other hand, I would definitely reinforce and enforce a strict handwashing policy to be done between dances.

Vax and recent booster required to attend

A single booster is, at this time, woefully inadequate.

MANDATORY. I have no sympathy for delusional people.

I'm vaxxed and boosted but have an auto immune issues. I had a little reaction to the first 2 shots but the booster caused swelling and rashes that took 4 months to subside. If another booster is required I will not be able to attend dances.

How about an occasional reminder about flu vaccine?

I appreciate your stringent guidelines.

Please see what I said about masking, above

I am vaccinated and boosted. I am ok with not requiring vaccination

It's hard to keep track of which boosters/when they are needed. Maybe a little leniency in this area would be helpful.

I was told I can't get more than the 2 boosters I've already had by the pharmacist.

I think you should require everyone getting an Omicron booster.

More than one booster should be required.

Controlling the spread of the virus is no longer possible. It is everywhere. Folks deciding to forgo vaccines and/or boosters are almost entirely putting themselves alone at risk.

There are a few people who have had bad reactions to the vaccines who should not have boosters, and I think they should be allowed to dance if they want to.

I think everyone who is medically able to receive the vaccine should be doing their part to take care of the community around them. I think there are very few people who are unable to receive any variation of the vaccine without a reaction, there are multiple formulations at this point. The six months requirement I expect would change with the science, we'll learn over time if it's going to be a once a year thing like a flu shot, or if it's a once every x years, etc. I think the booster requirement should match our current understanding.

Please get rid of them. We are grown-ups. Yes, I would like everyone to do all that, like me, but we are not in control of others. Why require a booster timeline independent of breakthrough COVID? I got breakthru end of Jan 2022, both Doc & I agreed to wait for new booster- not available until Sept.

I know so many people that are vaccinated and boosted, and still got COVID. It seems to help with the severity of symptoms, but not so much with the spread of the virus.

I believe vaccinations and boosters have kept me healthy

Unfortunately making policies with a specific booster timeline requirement is very tricky, because guidance for individuals varies so much, and we can't predict what boosters will be available in the coming year, and who will be eligible.

I support requiring vaccines and boosters; perhaps simple language requiring participants be up-to-date on boosters they are eligible for is worth considering.

We have seen that requiring only vaccination does not prevent super-spreader events. But so far dance groups that require masks have not seen transmission. Masks take care of the group.

I think vaccinations are just common sense and common courtesy to others

Vaccination must be required or I will not attend.

Vaccines are the best weapon against infection.

Groups really should assess risk using LOCAL transmission rates rather than State-wide or CDC mandates only.

I would think anyone boosted keeps their boosters up to date.

The stated intent of vaccines and boosters is to prevent the vaccinated person from severe disease. Two years ago, the vaccination passes in Europe and elsewhere were a way to encourage the population to get vaccinated with the goal of reducing the number of naive hosts. But with the current evasive variants, another person's vaccination status no longer has much impact on my personal likelihood of testing positive or of getting sick. It might be appropriate to recommend vaccination as a general rule but not use it as a gatekeeper, and trust people to manage their own risk. If the Board decides they do want to continue to be our brothers' keepers, then following CDC's guidelines of being up to date on vaccinations (for the current variant) seems more appropriate than requiring only one booster, which by now could have been a whole year ago.

I am 100% in favor of vax + booster requirements.

Omicron is so infectious it no longer makes sense to bar people on the basis of vax/boost. Most have been exposed; most cases in hospital are now incidental diagnoses (<https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofac332>).

I am vaccinated and boosted and will boost each season like the flu shot

I really appreciate the current requirements, and would support asking for proof of updated boosters with a generous lead time.

Probably less important than masking at this point in the disease, but both is best!

CDC Booster guidance likely to keep changing over time.

Considering the percentage of the country which has not been vaccinated (currently about one third), and the percentage of the country which has not had a booster (currently about two thirds), you are excluding a very large percentage of the country from participating in dancing, and are catering to the most extreme end of the Bell curve. Tailoring your policies more towards the center of the Bell curve would give more people the opportunity to join the joy of dance. There may be those who would no longer participate, but others would come happily back into the fold.

Immunity reduces and lasts 6 months (according to current research) so current boosters should be a part of the picture.

I'm undecided about this.

You might consider adjusting from "have at least 1 booster" to "have the latest booster within N months of becoming eligible, and available"?

I think that trying to enforce a booster requirement with a time limit would be a logistical nightmare. My preferred answer would be let's not make this even an option.

Works for me, won't force others to be vaccinated.

Requiring vaccination and all boosters makes it safer for everyone.

I am told that having boosters over 6 months old is basically the same as not having boosters.

I kind of like that vaccinations are required. I am in favor of requiring boosters too, but would probably continue to attend if boosters weren't required.

Yes. Thank you!!!

People are responsible for their own health and risk decisions to in all aspects of society. Why would you (a dance committee) impose your requirements on a group of adults, when no other government or corporate leadership is imposing those requirements? As long as there is full disclosure, you should leave it up to the adult dancer to decide what they want to do regarding vaccinations and masks.

Would like more encouragement for boosters. Vaccinations older than 6-9 months are pretty meaningless.

Because I am younger, I don't always qualify for boosters as often as older adults. So the "within 6 months" policy for boosters that I personally prefer would need some kind of qualification for those time windows when younger adults don't qualify for another booster yet.

I think vaccination in the last 5 months is important

It doesn't really matter to me whether other people are vaccinated and it seems like a lot of work to keep track of everyone.

I'm fine however its done. Most people have either gotten COVID at least once by now and/or are fully vaccinated. Over 90% of everyone in Multnomah has gotten their first two shots. In Washington, its over 80% and in Clark County, the number is over 70% but more people have gotten COVID while hospitalizations, infections are more-or-less steady at level. COVID's just not as serious a risk as it was

before, because the virus itself is less virulent, most local dancers are vaccinated and we have treatments for COVID now.

Seems to be working well.

It used to be important to me that all dancers are vaccinated and boosted, but it is now very clear that even vaccinated people can transmit Covid; therefore, I think it is no longer so important to my personal sense of safety. (I do recognize that an unvaccinated person might be shedding a higher virus load than a vaccinated person, but this seems a small point in the overall scheme of things.)

Social dancing is a high-risk activity. I will not attend without vaccination and booster requirements.

Optional: Do you have any general comments you'd like to pass along to the PCDC Board?

Thanks for the wonderful experiences on the dance floor.

My understanding is that the current protocol is working and people aren't getting infected at dances, so I think that speaks to keeping it going. Please don't relax the requirements; covid is not over, much as everyone would like it to be.

I appreciate these surveys to gain feedback from all involved. Thank you!

OHA has recommended masking/distancing for those of us working in a clinical setting through at least the winter flu season, although the CDC recently relaxed its guidelines. Appreciate you taking the cautious road to date, given the ambiguous information coming from our public health institutions.

I think PCDC has done a fine job with COVID safety. I'll be happy to play for dances whatever the policy. I'm disinclined to dance in a mask. I have done my gym workouts in a mask and it's uncomfortable. I can't imagine dancing being any better.

None

Thanks for asking.

Thanks for watching out for us, and making the tough decisions. I appreciate it.

Great job!! I appreciate your diligence and commitment, and most especially, your reaching out to the community with this survey.

I understand you want to keep everyone coming to the contra dances. I heard rumors of more rules are being considered. But if you have too many rules, it will make contra not so fun anymore because you'll be thinking can't do this or that.

Thank you for not having peanut products during breaks as I am highly allergic to even touch or smell it!

thank you for what you are doing and for checking with folks!

Thanks for all you do. I'm sure it involves a lot more work than most of us you know about

See above. Enforce hand washing frequently.

Everyone has different ideas what should be done. There is no way to make everyone happy and this is how it was before Covid. At least let people choose. It is hot when we are dancing, add a mask and it can be impossible for some. By enforcing masks/boosters those people are being left out too. Are some people more important than others? If the numbers are split, divide the room.... one line with mask and one without. I've never imagined that it might come down to that. I remember going to contra for the first time... I hadn't had that much fun in a long time (before Covid). I was amazed at how everyone was so inclusive of everyone. It was amazing! I haven't felt that since being back 😞 I know that Covid changed a lot of things that will never be the same. I hope that we can get that feeling back! I SO miss everyone's smiles. Usually, I leave the world at the door. That's impossible when everyone is wearing

masks. I understand that you have a concern about safety. Please let people be responsible for themselves. Thank you for doing this survey. I hope that the majority wants the masks off!

Getting a power roof vent installed at Fulton will help both the Summer heat concerns and lower the risk of virus spread among dancers!

I support the decision to use gender-free role terms!

I am not good at dancing so I go only to play music for dances. I hope there is a Megaband dance in March of 2023.

Thanks for soliticing input

If you decide to require additional boosters and double masks it will be hard for me to attend dances. Would it be possible to take a home antigen test right before the dance instead?

Thanks for keeping up with some gnarly issues!

I think you've done a great job formulating a policy that promotes and values health and safety. As a former public health provider, that's good practice that serves the most. Well done!

Keep up the good & hard fight. The larks/robins thing seems daunting to me but even old dogs can learn new tricks & I appreciate the thoughtful care with which you approached that

Thank you for all your work!!!!

Excellent communication and policies. Would like to see an Omicron booster requirement.

Thanks for your time, energy and efforts. It is much appreciated.

I really appreciate all the hard work that you all put into PCDC! It's a great organization.

Thank you for pausing the dances when it was necessary to keep everyone safe, and thank you for keeping the policies science and community wellness based to minimize the chances that dancers get sick. I know some people probably gave you grief over it, but it was well done.

Please stop masking. I am so sick of them being pretty much only in this venue that I am exploring other dance options. I am 66. I have had 2 vacs, 1 early boost, breakthrough, and newest booster. At some point you will lose me. I think you are already losing the opportunity for new dancers.

Thank you all so much for your caring and concern for the well being of the PCDC community.

I believe Covid is now endemic, like the flu, and masking should be optional.

Good work!

Mask wearing is getting sloppy. Some people need a reminder that covering the nose is just as important as the mouth. I would like to see some N95 or KN95 masks available at the door. Many people who have not tried them do not realize that they are easier to breathe through than cloth or double masking. And having high quality masks available might be helpful for new dancers showing up for the first time, or those who simply forget.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to safety

Good luck. Thank you for all you do.

I appreciate safety and health precautions! Keep up the good work. I'll be back when the board decides masks are no longer needed for dancers.

Thank you for all your efforts!

Thank you for all your efforts to keep us dancing and safe!

I'm really glad you're revisiting the policy! Thank you!

Thank you for all your efforts and care in getting us back to dancing as safely as possible!

I appreciate your concern for the community.

Thanks for asking!

I'm not attending often now (once since April), so my opinion may count for less.

Please, let's not continue to hide from one another. Everyone is welcome to be vaccinated and boosted, to wear a mask if they choose. These should not be requirements of life. I am still required to wear a mask every day, all day at work. The last thing I want to do on my free time is breathe some more used air.

Though it is frustrating, at this time I think too much caution is preferable to too little. Given that we are facing an upcoming flu season along with the uncertainty of what to expect of COVID activity this fall and winter I think a continued masking and vaccination policy is prudent.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to express our preferences. It's helpful to re-evaluating the policy from time to time.

The current variants infect people even outdoors. Maximizing air flow, requiring vaccines, boosters, and masks, reduce the risk a lot, but not to zero.

Thank you for your obvious effort to navigate these unpredictable waters!

Thanks for taking safety seriously. I have an health condition that puts me at a higher risk and I've really enjoyed being able to jump back into dances with your group.

I really appreciate the caution and thoughtfulness you have shown for keeping our community safe in such an extremely challenging time

Thank you for finding ways to keep us dancin'! :-)

I will do whatever is required to dance, show up with a smile and follow the rules. However, I do not agree with the current mask and vaccination policy. It is not your place to impose health policies or require medical documentation. Many of us in the dance committee have caught colds or flus from dances I the past. It's part of the risk. Dancing while masked makes breathing difficult.

I'm not a fan of Larks and Robin are there other options?

Thanks for surveying all of us. We need good info abt our policies. I'm on the Eugene Folklore Society board and we're having a lot of discussion abt similar policies and their impact on participation. We currently require vaccination/booster (with no time requirement) & masking.

I've been monitoring Oregon's wastewater surveillance data (<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19/viz/OregonsSARS-CoV-2WastewaterMonitoring/Introduction>) as a way to understand viral concentration rates in our local area. They're not posted quite as quickly as I'd like but I think they're good to keep an eye on in conjunction with case and hospitalization rates. Some times are safer for dancing than others.

Some people have a hard time dancing and breathing all night in a mask.

The current procedures seem to be working well. It does create extra work for those who maintain the verified data base. I am concerned about maintaining adequate ventilation in the winter without freezing out dancers, and especially, musicians. (i.e. keeping windows open) at the BWT.

Thanks for all your work, I'm sure it hasn't been easy putting together a consensus safety plan.

The new variant is looking nasty. We may have to look closely at masking again soon, but it'd be fun to allow those who'd prefer to dance maskless, as risky as it may be, to go without...for now.... as is possible in so many other places.

We are starting a dance series in Salem and trying to decide about masking requirements. The results of your survey would be hugely useful to us! Shawn.morford@comcast.net- do you mind to share results? Thank you!

Thank you for all you have done to keep us dancing.

Really appreciate all you do and have done to bring back contra (and other dances/concerts). I know it can be a thankless job but I am so grateful you've taken it on!

Nope, but I have specific policy suggestions!

If the survey results come in around half-and-half re masking, PCDC could have some dances mask-required and others not, communicating this policy and which dances are which well-ahead of time. I'd go even if there was one mask-optional event per month.

My request is: If we need a COVID protocol, let's use a testing protocol rather than a masking protocol.

As an organizer in two other communities, what's worked really well since mid-pandemic is to use a testing protocol using rapid tests and ensure a culture of people not attending events if they sick or even just under-the-weather. In one group, we've had over 1,000 attendees for indoor, close-proximity, mask-optional events (near all folks attending mask-less) with only one positive detected (and turned away) and no transmission between attendees. Since omicron, testing is required within four hours of the event. Tests can be had for cheaper in bulk or sometimes by donation and then purchased at-cost (\$5) or people can purchase their own and do them. Proof of testing has consisted of email/texting a pic of the result with name/date.

When testing at an event, individuals could wait outside or remain inside wearing masks and sit in chairs at a remove from already-tested folks

In the other group, we asked people to test ahead of time and required them to test at the beginning of the event and each day by lunchtime during which people were in close proximity but largely outdoors. While we had many tests donated from individuals, community centers and local libraries, we also bought some and, afterwards, gave away or donated what we had left over.

Another aspect of the testing policies has been to notify everyone if they may have been exposed. PCDC could do this in the form of a broadcast email. With their consent, the individuals with COVID can identify themselves. In my experience, by acting in forthright and non-shaming manner, this actually tends to build community.

COVID and the situation surrounding it just ain't what it used to be. My spouse tests 3x/week for work and I test more-or-less weekly for events. We've had to quarantine for short periods of time due to exposures/possible-exposures, but we've been fortunate to never have gotten COVID. All the anti-vaxxers I know of (almost entirely friends-of-friends and their friends) have gotten COVID once or twice. Most of us will probably get COVID multiple times throughout our lives.

Here are a couple of dance communities that don't have any COVID requirements. They ask or recommend that people get their shots and not attend if they feel sick, but that's it. These are in areas that have seen higher amounts of COVID disease than the Portland area. Y'all might contact them to see how its goin':

* <https://accontradanceyakima.wixsite.com/accd>

* <https://wallawallafriendsofacousticmusic.com>

Thanks for putting out this survey and reading my novel!

Survey from both Shannon and I

Thank you for your service. You are all amazing and I am grateful for everything you do!

Please resist the urge to relax the Covid protocols.