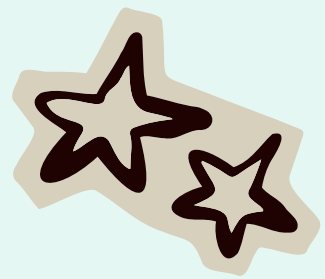
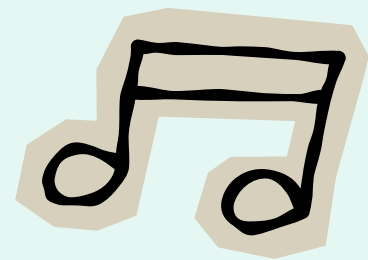




diy



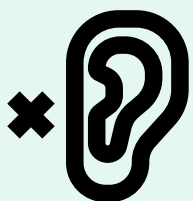
spaces &



accessibility

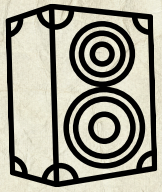


**a guide to
hosting
inclusive
events**



**INCLUSIVE
HARDCORE**





sources



Heavy Extreme Midwest

Safer Shared Air Collective (SSAC)

Photos by @brennan.313 on Instagram

Design & Event Accessibility:

1. <https://www.wcag.com/resource/what-is-wcag/>

2. <https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>

3. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/web-guidance/>

4. <https://disabilitease.com/best-and-worst-font-types-visually-impaired/>

5. <https://accessibility.psu.edu/color/colorvisiondetails/>

6. <https://www.visionaustralia.org/business-consulting/digital-access/blog/typography-in-inclusive-design-part-1>

7. "How To Create Access Info" zine by crip.toria

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DH9H9I0RD5I/?>

Long Covid, Bird Flu, & Disease Prevention:

8. <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html>

9. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10297274/>

10. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10260263/#>

sec0055

11. <https://recovercovid.org/long-covid>

12. <https://smartairfilters.com/en/blog/can-air-purifiers>

[-remove-filter-out-covid/](https://smartairfilters.com/en/blog/can-air-purifiers-remove-filter-out-covid/)



what is an inclusive space?



Ideally every event would be perfectly accessible for everyone, but unfortunately this is impossible. Sometimes important accommodations can end up creating barriers for others. We can't make every space perfect, but we can certainly take the extra step to include as many details as possible when promoting events. You may not be able to include the needs of every single person, but you can at least provide the information & therefore power needed to decide for themselves. We can make a more accessible & inclusive world, it just takes a bit of effort on all of our parts.

Planning a show is a difficult yet crucial part of keeping DIY music alive, so the biggest shout out to all of our bookers for creating spaces for the community to thrive and grow. None of this would exist without their

dedicated work.

accessibility helps us all.

Spaces that spread disease cannot be inclusive and are tools of fascism. Not only do they exclude & disrespect the most vulnerable of our community, but they actively risk causing harm by choosing not to protect the current & future health of the people who inhabit it.

DIY cannot survive unless precautions are taken to preserve the health & lives of those who cultivate it.



photo by: @brennan.313

heavy extreme midwest, 2025



the venue



Finding accessibility details can be a laborious task that disabled people often lack the energy to gather. Providing this information upfront for those that may be interested in attending your event can help remove any potential anxieties or barriers around deciding if they want to go. Creating an inclusive & safe space isn't possible without respecting and catering to the needs of disabled, chronically ill, and high risk people.

factors to consider when planning an event:

Wheelchair & Handicap Accessible?

source 7: crip.toria zine

separate entrance needed? other mobility aids like walkers, rollators, canes, crutches, or scooters? stairs? amount? height? dips, steps, or other obstacles in flooring? clear warnings in place?

All Ages?

guardian needed?

General Seating Available?

only on request? what type? bar stools? chairs? width? height? hard or soft? tables available? arms on chairs?

Masks Required?

encouraged or provided?

Re-Entry Allowed?

medical, age, or other exceptions?

Alcohol or Food Served?

BYO? sobriety requirement? dietary restriction options?

less common or harder to find information:

Bathrooms?

where? HC accessible stall? specific measurements? gendered or unisex? nearest location if none at the venue?



harsh lighting?

flash restrictions?

seizure warning?

naloxone provided?

sharps disposal?

ASL interpreter?

ADA specific section?

ear protection available?

service animals allowed?

certified first aid on site?

common items prohibited?

coat or bag check available?

assisted hearing devices available? 3.

Ventilation?

indoor or outdoor? working HVAC? proper air filtration? severe allergy warning? (Peanut, Cats, etc.)



Parking?

cost? specific hours? HC reserved? street spots? lot? distance from venue?

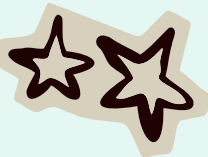


Transportation?

nearest bus stop? distance? routes? handicap accessible? construction or detours in the area?



the flyer



Promotion is very important, but it's not as useful when the flyer is hard to read or misses important information. Details that don't fit in the flyer should be in the description or caption, or the information should be easy to find like in a pinned post. Always double check details like date, address, & time are accurate and easy to comprehend. Remember that design accessibility is just as important as art and style.

suggestions to keep in mind when creating a flyer;

Choose an accessible font style & size.

Some fonts can be difficult for vision impaired or dyslexic individuals to read, leaving them out of your event. Sans Serif fonts, or those without decorative lines, have been shown to be the most accessible for visually impaired people. Fonts like Arial, Calibri, and Comic Sans are recommend over fonts like Courier or Gothic. Italic and underlined text can also sometimes be difficult to read.

Make sure the text is large enough. 10 is the absolute minimum recommended size, 12 is the standard for the legally blind/screen readers, and 14 is the minimum for the visually challenged. All caps fonts can also be hard to read.

Use a Contrast Checker.

Sites like WCAG.org or Webaim.org can be used to check the colors of your foreground & background to make sure everyone is able to read the flyer. Simple backgrounds & high contrast help low-vision individuals read text. Certain color combinations can be problematic for those with colorblindness. Tools like Canva have a built-in accessibility checker. Go to File -> Accessibility -> Check Design Accessibility.

sources 1-6:
ada.org
psu.edu
WCAG.org
webaim.org
disabilitease.com
visionaustralia.org

Write an Image Description.

Some social media sites will automatically create alt-text for any words on an image, but it can't interpret design aspects or pictures. There is no alt-text available for story posts, so be sure to create a post on your feed for any important or informational posts.



contrast ✓
font ✓



contrast ✗
font ✓



contrast ✓
font ✗ 4.



the kids are NOT alright !!



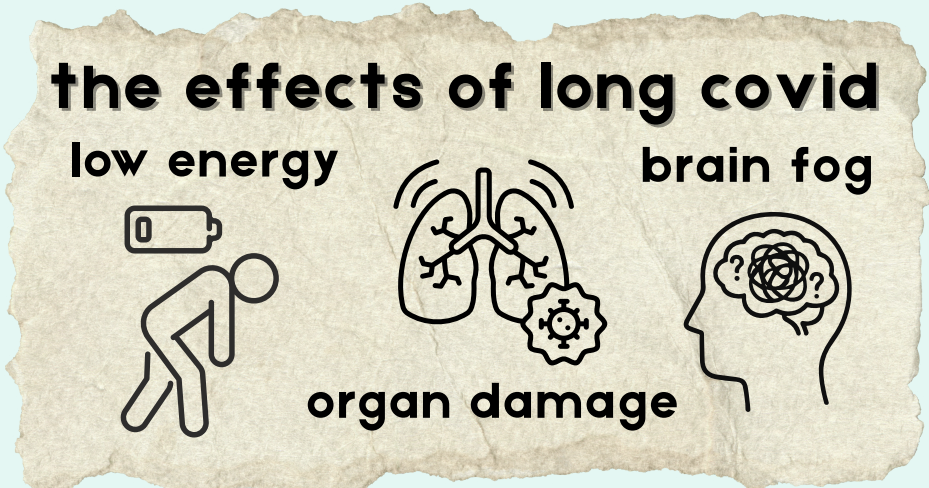
Long covid has officially surpassed childhood asthma in chronic respiratory conditions. Federal negligence puts us at risk of another pandemic with bird flu's increasing potential to transmit between humans. How will DIY stay alive if we are all are too disabled to mosh, join bands, or even go to shows or events in general?

Diversity is what makes our spaces & art so beautiful, and a higher risk of disability will only make it harder for non-white & LGBTQ+ people to participate.

We often talk about the West's need to sacrifice our comforts to achieve liberation for all. Where is the liberation in spreading disease? Pandemics historically have given rise to ableism & eugenics, and Covid-19 has been no exception.

Consider who benefits from you believing it's safe to show your face while existing in a surveillance state. We have a choice between experiencing temporary discomfort or facing the painful loss of our collective future.

DIY OR DIE



“are masks even effective at shows?”

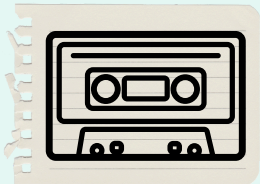
Yes! KN95s filter at least 95% of tiny particles & are most effective when everyone wears them. The responsibility of protection falls on all of us.

“but...i'm not even sick.”

Nearly all diseases have asymptomatic cases and Covid is a threatening example with around 40% of all cases falling in this category. Damaging droplets could be spread at any moment, so practices like masking & cleaning the air are necessary.

“well isn't it fascist to make me wear a mask?”

Nope! Disease & disability are violent tools of fascism and colonialism that purposely impact marginalized people the most. If you're able to, wearing a respirator is one of the simplest anti-fascist actions you can take.



keeping DIY alive

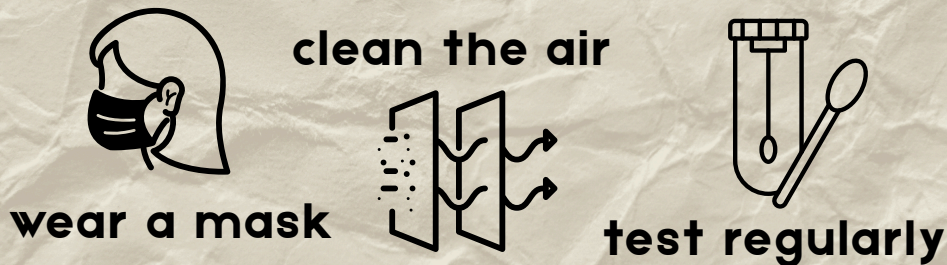


...literally

The spread of Covid has never ended & it continues to infect, disable, and kill people every single day. Surgical masks, while better than nothing at all, are not sufficient for protection due to their lack of a solid seal. N95s, KN95s, and KF94s, also known as respirators, are all the most effective when it comes to preventing spread of disease.

Other best practices have proven to be testing before & after each show and using air filters & open windows to ensure proper ventilation of the space. Check your local mask bloc or mutual aid org for masks & home tests, as well as your local library or health department.

strategies for covid safety



DIY spaces cannot survive if we don't go out of our way to protect the youth that drive them. The uncertainty of the future is scary, but it's our duty to use the agency we do have to make choices that keep our communities alive and breathing.

sources 9-12:
recovercovid.org
smartairfilters.com
pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
(pubmed)

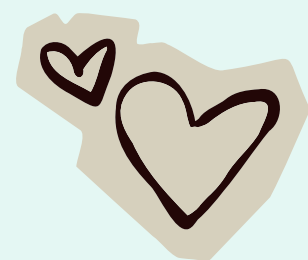
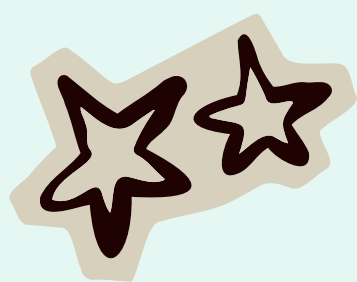
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Safer Shared Air Collective's linktree is filled with useful resources, including free masks & tests, and air filters & CO2 monitors that can be checked out through their lending library.



photo by: @brennan.313
heavy extreme midwest, 2025

how to be inclusive of...



Mobility aid users

Visually impaired people

Deaf or hearing impaired people

Younger and inexperienced people

Diabetic or dietary restricted people

Gender non-conforming & queer people

People with blood pressure regulation issues

Immunocompromised or high risk people

People with strict medication schedules

People with arthritis or chronic pain

People with substance use issues

People with mental illnesses

People with epilepsy



diy

**spaces &
accessibility**

...in your

shows & live events