The COVID-19 pandemic has been declared "over" many times, but we're still getting sick. Capitalism needs creatives to go "back to normal", but “normal” has been hurting so many of us for so long. Divest boldly from “normal”- together & individually!

We write asking more artists to opt into taking care of yourselves & each other. Taking care is vital so we can keep creating. We can’t keep our own creative practices separate from keeping each other safe. We can make & keep our communities safe & beautiful through art & action!

In this spirit, we share just some of what we’ve learned including resources & safety practices.
Use & share freely. We love and appreciate you so much.

Glossary!

Community care: a lens of thinking that believes we are all our healthiest when the collective is healthy. Can be helpful when self care isn't possible & should be utilized after self care.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus): a contagious, airborne, viral, cumulative disease. Can spread asymptomatically, turn into Long COVID, & lead to lifelong disability.

Harm reduction: a range of practices to prevent & reduce bodily harm & to promote healthy & dignified lifestyles.

Intersectionality: term coined by Kimberle Crenshaw that considers how a collection of factors affect a social individual in combination, rather than considering each factor in isolation.

1. Capitalism loves money, not you!
Our capitalist government puts profits over people when it comes to COVID. Instead of keeping people safe & cared for, gov. officials declared the emergency over too early because it was cheaper. Instead of funding research & sharing information, they stopped reporting numbers & put it all on individuals, sending us back to work with the idea that things were back to “normal.“ They need our money and labor to exist but don't care if *we* exist- safely and healthy.
Despite what capitalism tells you, COVID is still a thing. Luckily, there are individuals & groups doing AMAZING work locally & nationwide to keep themselves & others safe, informed & healthy. **We have the power to be better than capitalism!**

2. Anyone can become disabled at any time! From the start, media told us that "disabled people are most at risk" & if you aren't disabled, you need not worry. But anyone can become disabled at any time. We have a 1 in 10 chance of getting Long COVID. And if Long COVID usually leads to disability then we are ALL at risk.
We are still learning the effects that COVID will have on our bodies long term. So far, there is enough data to show us that it's still important to be careful & protect ourselves, *especially by masking.* As creatives, we need to intentionally protect ourselves so we can keep creating.
The Hudson Valley can be a safe place! Cherish yourself & design or demand COVID-safe events!

3. Caring about COVID = caring about people who are Indigenous, Black, queer, disabled, working class, or otherwise marginalized.
Surprise! COVID has the most harmful impact on those who are already most impacted by systems of harm. If this feels familiar, it’s because it is! Classic U.S. history.
This is why we listen to impacted voices. These folks know how to navigate hard times & are tired of not being heard, especially when we’re trying to help & keep ourselves healthy! When folks are generous enough to share, we must listen, adapt, adjust, & act. It may be hard, but it is vital to live together intersectionally & model care for all.
Model care. Show that you care about others - here & everywhere.

Resources!

The People’s CDC
www.PeoplesCDC.org

COVID Action Map
www.COVIDActionMap.org

COVID-19 & Accessibility Checklists & Resource Guide
www.Celebrate845.com/covid19

Best practices!

Air filtration & ventilation: use an air purifier, open windows & turn on fans.

Masking: N95/KN95s or better. Cloth & surgical ones don’t do much.
Ask us for free masks!

Mouthwash: any kind with CPC (cetylpyridinium chloride) will reduce viral load.

Test up: use rapid tests often, or PCR/ molecular tests for better accuracy.

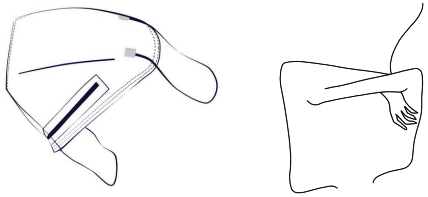
Communication: be honest about habits with yourself & others. Make safer choices often, test properly, & prioritize those most at risk.

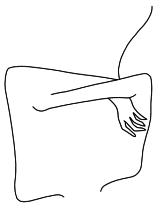
What if we see our role as artists as being deeply tied to the health of our neighborhoods? How can you use your art to keep people well?

Celebrate845’s mission is to organize, recognize, and celebrate marginalized, low income & working class creatives across NY’s Hudson Valley via pop-up & virtual offerings.

www.Celebrate845.com/covid19

Ask us for FREE face masks!

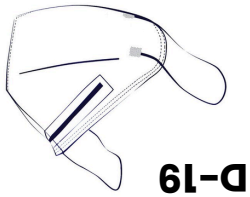




You hold power!
Yield responsibly!
Take care of you & of each other!

An Artists’ Guide

to Not Being Complicit with COVID-19 in the Hudson Valley



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