



# COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY

## Revised 1-21-22

### 1. PURPOSE

Ensuring the health and safety of the membership in rehearsal and performance is one of the organization's most important responsibilities. As the impacts of COVID-19 are closely monitored, federal, state and municipal directives and recommendations continue to be followed.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS- CoV-2 virus. How best to negate, decrease and/or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in rehearsal and performance spaces is a priority. This includes activities in one or more of the following areas:

- reducing transmission among members
- maintaining healthy operations
- maintaining a healthy rehearsal and performance environment

### 2. COVID-19

Infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can cause illness ranging from mild to severe and, in some cases, can be fatal. Given emerging variants and ever-changing updates, refer to the COVID-19 section of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for current, comprehensive information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

In particular, note the links to the CDC website below among many that are relevant to the band's activities:

#### A. SYMPTOMS

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

#### B. HOW IT SPREADS

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

#### C. PREVENTION

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>

#### D. QUARANTINE & ISOLATION

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

### **3. REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE HEALTH & SAFETY PARAMETERS**

#### **A. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT**

Each member must submit proof of vaccination via picture or scan of his/her Vaccination Card prior to participating in his/her first rehearsal or performance.

#### **B. PROCEDURES AT REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES**

1. Chairs will be spaced apart and angled out toward the audience as much as practical depending on the number of members participating and the size of the room/stage at each rehearsal or performance venue. Members are welcome to bring their own disinfectant wipes to use on their assigned chair before sitting if they wish. How droplets are projected through the different instruments will be considered when placing chairs on site.
2. Since everyone present at rehearsals and on stage at performances is vaccinated, wearing masks will be optional on site. Using bell covers and masks designed to be worn while playing an instrument will also be optional.
3. Members are urged to practice thorough hand washing practices while on site and are recommended to bring and use hand sanitizer (comprised of at least 60% alcohol) as needed, especially if soap and water are not available.
4. Equipment and music should not be shared without proper cleaning and disinfection as appropriate along with the use of hand sanitizer as needed. Effective preventative measures can reduce the risk of exposure to respiratory aerosols and touch transfer.
5. Each member who has downloaded their parts will be issued a new, empty music folder at his/her first rehearsal. Folders will not be collected after rehearsals/performances and do not need to be returned. Members who have requested a folder with parts compiled for them will receive the folder to keep until returning after the performance. Members are welcome to bring their own hand sanitizer to use after handling music if they wish, especially if exchanging or receiving parts.
6. Each member may use his/her own music stand or one available at the rehearsal venue.
7. Pencils will be available for member use throughout rehearsals but, once distributed, will remain with the member and do not need to be returned. Do not share pencils.
8. Percussionists will coordinate their own health and safety practices for using and handling the instruments needed within the summer repertoire.
9. Brass players are recommended to capture instrument condensate in a container or on an absorbent cloth such as a 'puppy pad'. Paper plates are not recommended for outdoor sites due to the inevitable presence of wind. Used absorbent materials must be properly disposed by the user after rehearsals and performances. Practice appropriate hand hygiene after handling.
10. Members should bring their own beverages from home. Do not share water bottles, containers or snacks.

### C. MEMBER HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Provide due care for self and others as we as a society continue to navigate through the pandemic. Given the transmissibility of the virus, members who have symptoms reflecting what could be a cold, flu or Omicron should notify the Associate Conductor and not attend the scheduled rehearsal or performance. Follow current CDC guidelines if recovering from COVID or have been exposed.
2. Members who have had close contact with a person suspected of direct exposure to COVID-19 shall follow current CDC guidelines concerning quarantine, notify the Associate Conductor, and not attend rehearsals or performances scheduled within the quarantine period.
3. If a member who attended a rehearsal or performance is confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19, all members will be informed of their possible exposure to while maintaining confidentiality concerning the name of the member involved as required by law.
4. Members traveling internationally shall follow current CDC guidelines.
5. Members and the organization as a whole will follow the health and safety guidelines established by the rehearsal/performance venue.
6. Each performance venue is responsible for establishing, monitoring and enforcing its own health and safety guidelines for audiences.

### D. COMPLIANCE

By choosing to participate in the scheduled rehearsals and performances, members commit to following the health and safety parameters as stated above. Compliance concerns will be addressed on an individual basis by the directors.

### 4. COMMUNICATIONS;

This policy will be updated as warranted by the prevailing COVID-19 context with revisions communicated to the membership.

**STAY STRONG, STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY!**