



# NORWALK YOUTH SYMPHONY

## COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### 1. COVID-19 GUIDELINES

NYS will follow the following **COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols** in connection with its in-person rehearsals, performances, and events until the appropriate health authorities determine that the health and safety concerns relating to COVID-19 are no longer present or a significant threat.

### 2. VACCINATION OR NEGATIVE COVID TEST REQUIREMENTS

NYS requires **all students** who participate in one of our ensembles to comply with one of the following options:

1. Provide proof of full vaccination with a vaccine approved or authorized for emergency use by the FDA before attending the first in-person rehearsal or if a student is vaccinated at a later time, prior to attending the next in-person rehearsal or event. To be considered "fully vaccinated", a student should have received a minimum of two doses of either Pfizer. Based on official guidance, students should also consider receiving booster shots if eligible.
2. Students who are not fully vaccinated must submit a negative COVID test result from a test taken within 72 hours before each in-person rehearsal or event. Students must provide a negative test result before such rehearsal or event by emailing it to Sara Watkins at [nyscovid@gmail.com](mailto:nyscovid@gmail.com) or upon arrival each week. NYS will accept test results from any CDC-approved tests, including PCR, rapid antigen or OTC at-home tests available for purchase at most drug stores. If OTC at-home test is being used, please make sure to email a clear picture of the result with a timestamp included prior to coming to the rehearsal or event.

**All Administrative and Artistic Staff and Volunteers must be fully vaccinated. NYS asks that only fully vaccinated parents volunteer for in-person duties.**

### 3. REHEARSAL PROTOCOLS:

- Wear a mask or approved facial covering at all times. Woodwind and Brass players must wear a mask specifically designed for their instruments; bell covers must also be used. NYS has the appropriate mask for woodwind and brass players available at rehearsal, if needed; you will not be allowed to wear a surgical mask with a slit. City of Norwalk has mandated mask for everyone entering the building.
- Enter and exit City Hall and rehearsal spaces as directed by Parent Volunteers/NYS Staff and maintain social distancing.
- Musician seating will be clearly marked and will be positioned to accommodate proper social distancing with increased spacing for wind & brass instrumentalist. Students must remain in their designated seating spaces at all times.
- Restrooms may be accessed only if necessary; please prepare accordingly to avoid needing to use restrooms.
- NO indoor cell phone use for any reason is permitted during in-person events.
- NO food, gum, or candy of any kind, except the snack that may be provided by NYS. A water bottle is allowed.
- Bring only personal belongings needed to participate in the program. Students should store their personal belongings in designated area or within their assigned seating spaces.
- Students are not to share stands, music, folders, pens, pencils, water bottles, or any other personal belongings.
- We will provide breaks during rehearsals for students to get fresh air. Ten minute snack breaks will be held outdoors. Students are encouraged to remain socially distant during the break.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available. Students should clean their hands frequently.
- City Hall's Building Management Department has confirmed the proper filters and air circulation are in place according to CDC's guidelines.

#### **4. DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES**

- Each student group will have a specific drop-off and pick-up time. Drop-off and pick-up times will be clearly stated in the Friday NYS newsletter.
- You may drop off your student no earlier than 10 minutes before rehearsal begins. Students will be directed to their assigned rehearsal space upon arrival at City Hall.
- Take your temperature and self-evaluate any signs of illness in accordance with the Social Responsibility Acknowledgements, Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability before coming to NYS in-person events. If you are feeling ill and/or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, stay home and report your absence at [Report An Absence | norwalkyouthsymphony](#).
- Parents and visitors will not be permitted to enter City Hall unless they are volunteering. Everyone entering City Hall must wear a mask.
- Please be prompt picking up your student following their rehearsal.

#### **5. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Promptly Notify Sara Watkins at [nysed@optonline.net](mailto:nysed@optonline.net) if:
  - you are in quarantine due to exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and you have not yet obtained a negative PCR test
  - you or anyone in your household is awaiting COVID-19 test results
  - you or anyone in your household have tested positive for COVID-19 within 10 days prior to or after attending an in-person NYS rehearsal or event.
- You should not come to any NYS in-person event under any of these circumstances.
- Prior to returning to NYS activities, you must be cleared to return by Sara Watkins, who may consult with the NYS COVID Ad Hoc Committee, as appropriate.
- NYS will conduct a reasonable inquiry to determine whether any students were in "close contact" (meaning within less than 3 feet and for more than 15 minutes) with a student who tested positive for COVID shortly after attending an in-person rehearsal or event and notify the impacted families, if any.

#### **6. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THESE PROTOCOLS may include, but are not necessarily limited to:**

- Written or verbal warnings;
- Suspension; or
- Dismissal.

#### **7. ALTERNATIVE LEARNING MODALITIES**

- Students who are unable to attend rehearsals due to the above health and safety requirements should participate remotely if they feel well enough to do so. NYS will offer remote learning on a case by case basis for the 2021-2022 academic year to any students who are not able to attend in-person rehearsals or events due to these protocols
- NYS reserves the right to alter the delivery of instruction from in-person to remote learning based on health and safety conditions and as guided by federal, state or local authorities.
- If Norwalk City Hall becomes unavailable OR if a conductor/coach is unable to attend a rehearsal in person, a NYS newsletter and post to the appropriate Google classroom will be sent to the affected ensemble(s), chamber group(s), and/or theory class by 11:00 am on the date of the rehearsal. The Google classroom will contain the Zoom link and times for the virtual rehearsal/class if one will be held.