



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 ages 12 and up** 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.
2. Students who are eligible but are not fully vaccinated must submit a negative PCR test result from a test taken within 72 hours before each in-person rehearsal or event. Students must provide negative test result before such rehearsal or event or upon arrival each week.

For students under 12 years of age: Since these students are not yet vaccine-eligible, we will exercise stringent hygiene protocols so that they may participate in person (see below for details). They must complete an at home health assessment per the NYS Social Responsibility Acknowledgements, Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability before each in-person event. Once vaccinations for this age group are approved or authorized for emergency use by the FDA, students will have 2 months to comply with either of the two options above.

All Administrative and Artistic Staff and Volunteers will be fully vaccinated. NYS asks only fully vaccinated parents to 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. 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. Snack breaks will be held outdoors.
- 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.
- Phil Winds will rehearse outdoors with appropriate masks and social distancing.

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.

- To expedite the check-in process, families must complete the **Social Responsibility Acknowledgments, Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability** and if over the age of 12, **provide proof of vaccination or negative PCR test** prior to the first in-person rehearsal;
- Take your temperature and self-evaluate any signs of illness in accordance with the Social Responsibility Acknowledgments, 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 notify Sara Watkins.
- 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

- Notify Sara Watkins 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 have tested positive for COVID-19
- You should not come to any NYS in-person event under any of these circumstances.
- Prior to returning to NYS activities, you must submit a negative PCR test result to Sara Watkins.
- Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 after being at Norwalk City Hall, must immediately report their results to nysed@optonline.net.
- NYS will conduct contact tracing to determine if the individual may have met the threshold of exposing others, and will contact any such individuals

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

- NYS will offer remote learning on a case by case basis for the 2021-2022 academic year. Students who are unable to attend rehearsals due to the above requirements should participate remotely. Attendance requirements will be waived for the time being.
- 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.