

New River Youth Symphony & Chorus

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES

Based on what is currently known about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), COVID-19 spreads from person to person through close contact (within about six feet) via respiratory droplets. Symptoms range from mild to severe and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

The following protocol for addressing COVID-19 is based on information provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), the West Virginia Department of Education and the National Association for Music Education.

All practices, policies, and procedures are subject to change per any advice of the CDC, WVDHHR, West Virginia Department of Education and/or the National Associates for Music Education.

Our goal is to conduct regular rehearsals with social distancing. Only Emerging Strings and Youth Symphony will have rehearsals this season. Only strings, woodwinds, and brass will meet this season, no percussion. There will be no Beginner Chorus or Youth Chorus rehearsals this season.

We expect each conductor and student to take steps to be safe, including mask-wearing, proper physical distancing, and hand-washing. Our ability to offer in-person rehearsals depends on individuals' actions.

General Guidelines and Practices for In-Person Rehearsals or Events

- We will limit student capacity per rehearsal so that a six-foot space can be maintained between participants, and we will limit rehearsal time to ensure proper air exchange.
- Rehearsals will be Monday nights at the Memorial Building in Fayetteville, starting on March 8.
- Emerging Strings will meet at 5:15-6:15 pm, and Youth Symphony will meet at 6:45-8:00.
- Prior to attending a rehearsal, parents will complete a health assessment form on Google Documents. Parents are required to complete this health assessment no later than 4:00 pm before EVERY rehearsal.
- While waiting to enter the building, students should maintain a distance of six feet from others.
- Students, conductors, and all NRYSC personnel will have their temperature taken upon entering the building. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter the building.
- We will use hand sanitizer with 60% to 90% alcohol.
- Students and conductors will be asked to use hand sanitizer as they enter the building.
- Face masks are required to be worn at all times. Masks can be disposable or cloth-reusable. At this point, face shields (without a mask underneath) will not be allowed for students.
- Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times.

- Masks must be appropriate and may not promote alcohol, drugs, or tobacco use, have vulgar or offensive language, nor violent graphics.
- If a student or conductor arrives without a mask, a mask will be provided before he will be allowed to enter the building.
- Students will go directly to their assigned seat in the rehearsal hall.
- Use of restrooms at the rehearsal venue is subject to rules enforced by the venue. If possible, please go before you arrive at the rehearsal location. Parents or family members who need to use the restroom at the rehearsal location will be required to complete a health assessment upon entry of the building.
- Students are not allowed to gather and socialize in the hallways or other areas.
- Parents bringing or picking up their child ...
- Chairs will be set up prior to rehearsals to ensure required distances. No chairs may be moved.
- **Each student should bring his own instrument, music stand, music printouts from the website, and mask.** Students will not share music, instruments, or stands.
- Parents, siblings, or guests will not be allowed to enter the building.
- Only students, conductors, and NRYSC personnel will be allowed in the rehearsal hall.
- Students and conductors who are sick *MUST NOT* attend any rehearsal.

A family should contact the NRYSC in case of a COVID positive or COVID exposure. If any of the four conditions below are applicable to student or NRYSC personnel, the guidelines below must be followed for returning to rehearsal:

Exposure to COVID, no symptoms	No rehearsal for 14 days since exposure
Diagnosis of COVID, no symptoms	No rehearsal for 14 days since COVID test
At least 1 new symptom (even non-COVID-related illnesses): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fever of 100° or higher ▪ Chills ▪ Shortness of breath / breathing difficulty ▪ New cough ▪ New loss of taste or smell 	No rehearsal until ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 14 days since first symptom ▪ No fever for three days (without fever-reducing medicine) ▪ Three days of symptom improvement, including coughing and shortness of breath
Travel out of state	No rehearsal for 14 days from date of return

Special Restrictions for Woodwind and Brass Players:

- Students must wear a mask while playing. The mask will include a small straight slit in a surgical-style mask in addition to instrument coverings.
- Brass students must provide their own bell cover to use during rehearsals.
- Woodwind students need to provide their own instrument cover to use during rehearsals.
- After rehearsal, woodwind and brass students should immediately change to a mask without a slit.
- Reed players may not dispose of reeds anywhere on the premises.
- Woodwind players must not displace accumulated moisture from keyholes by forceful blowing. Use an absorbent material instead. Dispose of this absorbent material appropriately or take it with you when you leave.
- Spit valves should be emptied away from others and onto an absorbent disposable material.

RESPECT AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES!