



Covid-19 Policies & Procedures

Sept 10, 2021

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Introduction

Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO) will return to in-person rehearsals for the 2021-22 season. Our primary concern is the health and safety of our students, their families, and our team of music and administrative staff. This document outlines the policies and procedures that BYSO will follow so that we can maintain a safe and healthy environment for our programs. At this time, Governor Jay Inslee has amended the [Washington Ready proclamation 20-25.16 on Sept. 3, 2021](#). These policies and procedures follow the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) which states that it has based its requirements on “existing science, expert public health guidance, current policies, stakeholder input, and the CDC [COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools](#).” Please check for updates to the guidelines as the contents may change.

The Overview of Prevention Measures section in the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document provides guidance for COVID-19 mitigation measures, and BYSO will be mindful of those that apply to our program:

- universal face coverings/masks (in this document, universal masking means that face coverings are required to be worn by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status)
- physical distancing
- improving ventilation
- handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- cleaning and disinfecting
- staying home when sick and seeking evaluation
- contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation
- responding to cases of COVID-19
- meeting the reporting requirements to public health

In-Person Program Requirements

AT REHEARSALS

Per the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document, in-person rehearsals will follow these requirements:

1. We will seat students at least 3 feet apart, and more if space permits. Requirements for eating during breaks is specified in the [Breaks section](#).
2. We will follow universal masking requirements for all students and staff. More specifics will outlined below in the [Face Coverings & Instrument Covers](#) section.
3. We will open windows and doors, when possible, to promote air change.

4. We will encourage hand-washing and have hand sanitizers available.
5. We will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g. door knobs, chairs)
6. We will conduct contact tracing, if we find someone infected with COVID-19.
7. We will meet the reporting requirements to public health.

VACCINATIONS

The [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document states:

“Vaccination is the most effective prevention strategy available for allowing schools to resume full-time in-person instruction. COVID-19 vaccines are available to all people age 12 and older.”

Governor Inslee announced vaccine requirements for employees working in K-12, most childcare and early learning, and higher education on Aug. 18, 2021 in his [Proclamation 21-14 \(Vaccination Requirement\)](#). The requirement includes contractors, volunteers, and other positions that work in these settings ([WA DOH COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ webpage](#) and [COVID-19 vaccination requirement for K-12 school employees: frequently asked questions \(PDF\)](#) (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction)).

Given the above, BYSO will require the following:

For BYSO Music Staff, Administrative Staff, and Parent Volunteers

BYSO will require Covid-19 vaccinations for all BYSO music staff, administrative staff and parent volunteers and will require proof of vaccination. For those needing exemptions, we refer to the “Exemptions from Vaccine Requirement” section of Governor Inslee’s [Proclamation 21-14 \(Vaccination Requirement\)](#).

For Participating BYSO Students

- BYSO strongly encourages but does not require the Covid-19 vaccination for students to participate in our programs.
- However, if your participating student is vaccinated, please plan to provide vaccination status of your student on the BYSO registration form.

FACE COVERINGS & INSTRUMENT COVERS

How To Properly Wear the Required Mask

BYSO will follow the guidance by the [Secretary of Health Mask Order 20-03.4 \(Aug. 19, 2021\)](#), which states that a face covering must:

- Fit snugly against the sides of the face
- Completely cover the nose and mouth
- Be secured with ties, ear loops, elastic bands, or other equally effective method

Type of Masks Required, When/How to Use Them, and Other Best Practices

Per the Performing Arts section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document, BYSO requires the following:

- Universal masking with appropriate material – MERV13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material – is required by all students and staff in performing arts classes and while participating in performing arts activities. Masking with MERV13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material is the best way of reducing aerosols from circulating in indoor spaces.
- Aerosol-producing musicians, e.g., singers, woodwinds and brass, speech/debate, and theater performers are required to wear appropriate masks/face coverings and/or use appropriate bell covers while performing. Face coverings/masks with slits are required.
- Bell covers with appropriate material – MERV 13 or 3-layer medical face mask or similar material – are required for brass and woodwind instruments when indoors. Bell covers are recommended when playing outdoors but not required.
- Practice good hygiene collecting water condensation from brass instruments. Consider using “puppy pads” for students to empty spit valves rather than emptying directly on the floor.

Supply Your Own Masks

We ask that you supply your own masks to all BYSO events, including but not limited to rehearsals, retreats, concerts, etc. Please view the requirements in the [Type of masks required](#) section.

DISTANCING

Per the Performing Arts section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document, “distancing should be at least 3 feet, if possible, and more if space permits.” Requirements for eating during break is specified in the [Breaks section](#).

BREAKS

BYSO rehearsals typically have one 10-minute break period. During this time, students may eat snacks that they’ve brought themselves outside of the rehearsal rooms. Students may bring water in covered containers. They can drink the water while in the rehearsal room and re-mask right away. If the students are masked, they should be at least 3 feet apart, and if they are unmasked, such as while eating their snacks, they should be at least 6 feet from each other.

PERFORMANCES

BYSO is currently hoping to have culminating concerts. We will monitor the COVID-19 status in King County and will evaluate whether we can move forward or not per the health guidelines, closer to the date. If we are able to move forward with the concerts, we

will follow the guidelines in the Performance section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document:

- For performances, audience members should be seated in “family units” and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart. All audience members must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
- Universal masking is required during performances for participants, including appropriate face coverings and bell covers on woodwind and brass instruments.

POLICY ADHERENCE

We ask that all participants in the BYSO program, including but not limited to students, staff, and volunteers, adhere to the requirements specified in this BYSO COVID-19 Policies & Procedures document so that we can maintain a safe and healthy environment. A lack of adherence may result in immediate dismissal from rehearsals that day. Repeated lack of adherence may result in removal from participation in all BYSO programs.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

All participants will sign the BYSO Coronavirus/COVID-19 Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement in order to participate in the in-person rehearsals.

Site Manager Tasks

1. Set up chairs before rehearsals to ensure students are seated at least 3 feet apart.
2. Oversee the students to wipe and put away chairs, etc. after rehearsal.
3. Refer to the “Cleaning and Disinfecting” section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document.

Cleaning And Disinfecting

WIPE DOWN AT REHEARSAL SITE

BYSO staff will ask students to wipe down the following items before and after rehearsals:

- Chairs
- High contact surfaces
- Reference: Cleaning and Disinfecting section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document

AVAILABILITY OF SANITATION EQUIPMENT AT REHEARSALS

BYSO will have a sanitation equipment available for our rehearsing members. They consist of the following items:

1. Hand sanitizer
2. Cleaning wipes
3. Extra masks that have least 3 layers for those who have forgotten to bring their own (no re-circulation)
4. Extra instrument bell covers, etc. (no re-circulation)

What To Do If/After Signs of Covid-19 Are Found

BYSO will follow the guidance specified the Responding to Cases or Suspected Cases of COVID-19 section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document regarding the following situations:

- When someone develops symptoms of Covid-19 while at a BYSO event
- Returning to In-Person Rehearsal After Testing Positive For Covid-19
- Returning to In-Person Rehearsal After Someone is in Close Contact with Someone with Covid-19

Reporting Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health

BYSO will follow the guidance specified the “Reporting Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health” section of the [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#) document.

References

1. [Washington Ready proclamation 20-25.16 \(Sept. 3, 2021\)](#)
2. [K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year \(Aug. 10, 2021\)](#)
3. [Proclamation 21-14 \(Vaccination Requirement\)](#)
4. [COVID-19 vaccination requirement for K-12 school employees: frequently asked questions \(PDF\)](#) (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction)
5. [Secretary of Health Mask Order 20-03.4 \(Aug. 19, 2021\)](#)
6. SYSO Covid-19 Guidelines as of Sept. 2, 2021