

COVID-19 Prevention Plan for Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras

(Guidelines follow MN Dept. of Health Guidelines for Youth and Student Programs found at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>)

- **Ensure sick students, staff members, and volunteers stay home**
 - Educate SEMYO family members, staff, and volunteers on monitoring symptoms of illness, and encourage them to stay home if experiencing any of those symptoms. Send a text reminder to SEMYO family members to self-monitor on the morning of rehearsal.
 - Perform required temperature checks using a non-contact thermometer.
 - Implement adjusted absence policy that has no limit on absences due to personal or family illness or suspected COVID exposure.
 - Inform students, staff, and volunteers if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantine for a minimum of two weeks (personal data will remain private).
- **Social Distancing**
 - Students will be seated or standing during rehearsal at a minimum of 6 feet apart. Brass and wind players will be seated a minimum of 8 feet apart. Conductors and coaches will stand no closer than 6 feet from students.
 - SEMYO will rehearse in rooms that allow for maximum social distancing and that are 50% or less below room capacity.
 - Brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, and bass trombone) that generate more aerosol will rehearse outside as much as possible and require additional distancing when inside.
 - Rehearsal start and end times are staggered to minimize crowding in hallways and lobby areas and multiple entrances and exits will be utilized when possible.
 - Communal breaks and snacks will be eliminated.
 - Students will bring their instrument cases to their chairs or use a designated area to avoid crowds before and after rehearsal.
- **Hygiene**
 - SEMYO will provide hand sanitizer at the entrance to and inside rehearsal rooms. Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer or wash hands in the bathroom with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to the start of rehearsal and after using the restroom.
 - Students will be asked to bring their own music stands, pencils, and music to minimize sharing equipment.
 - All shared equipment will be cleaned using a CDC approved disinfectant between rehearsals (and during rehearsal if necessary). This may include music stands, chairs, percussion mallets, and percussion instruments.
 - Door handles will be sanitized frequently throughout the morning.
- **Face Masks**
 - All students, staff, and volunteers will be required to wear face masks before, during, and after SEMYO rehearsal. Masks should be tight fitting and cover the nose and mouth. No exceptions will be allowed.

- Students, staff, and volunteers will be asked to provide their own masks, but an ample supply of disposable masks will be available as a back-up or if someone forgets.
- A specialized mask will be provided for flute, reed, and brass players and must be worn during rehearsal (even during outdoor rehearsal).
- **Other**
 - SEMYO will consider providing additional bell covers or bags for wind and brass instruments (in particular trumpet and trombone).
 - SEMYO will suspend or cancel rehearsals if there is a significant increase of COVID-19 cases in the community, or if the state disallows youth programming.
 - A detailed COVID-19 preparedness plan will also be available.