

GTCYS ATTENDANCE POLICY & HEALTH SCREENING

REVISED POLICY FOR 2021-22: Please note that this policy has been revised for the 2021-22 season due to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a typical year, GTCYS students are allowed to miss up to two rehearsals per concert cycle (typically 2-3 cycles per season), and attendance at concerts and retreats is required. We anticipate shifting back to a more structured policy in the future. Consistent attendance is the cornerstone of GTCYS' orchestras' commitment to excellence; however, taking care of our community's health is of greater importance. Students will not be penalized for health-related absences.

WHEN HEALTHY, GTCYS members should make every effort to participate in all GTCYS activities, including rehearsals, retreats, and concerts. Please do your best to honor your commitment to your orchestra and not to schedule events and activities which conflict with your GTCYS rehearsals or performances. GTCYS members are all responsible for knowing the time commitment for their orchestra. Subscribe to your orchestra's calendar here: [GTCYS Orchestra Calendars](#).

Health Screening: Prior to every in-person GTCYS activity (rehearsals, retreats, concerts) students must answer a [self-screening health questionnaire](#). **In the event of symptoms or illness of any kind,** COVID-19-related or otherwise (fever of 100° F or above, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, etc.), or in the case of a suspected or confirmed active case of COVID-19, **students must stay home.**

When to stay home and requirements for returning to rehearsals:

1. If a family suspects that their student has been exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19, they should monitor for symptoms and **have two negative tests** before coming to the next rehearsal.
2. If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, they should **isolate at home for 10 days and have two negative tests** and have no symptoms before returning to GTCYS.

What happens when GTCYS students need to be absent?

1. Complete the [GTCYS Absence Form](#) as soon as you are aware that you will miss a GTCYS activity for any reason. Anticipating accurate attendance is crucial for conductors to effectively plan their rehearsals.
2. If the absence is related to COVID-19, students must immediately inform miranda@gtcys.org and complete the [COVID-19 Student Information Form](#) to inform GTCYS of the details of their case or exposure.
3. If students accrue multiple absences, they may be asked to record and submit short passages from the orchestra's music to demonstrate their progress and musical understanding to their conductors despite absences. GTCYS staff and conductors will work with each family on a case-by-case basis to address attendance.

Prioritizing School Band and Orchestra Concerts: When school band or orchestra concerts conflict with GTCYS activities, students should prioritize their school ensemble commitment over GTCYS. Please remember to inform GTCYS of the conflict as soon as possible.

Promptness: To ensure adequate time for set-up, warm-up, and tuning, all students must be present and seated at least 15 minutes before the beginning of each rehearsal. GTCYS' conductors will begin rehearsal promptly by the listed rehearsal start time.

Weather cancellations: Cancellations due to weather are rare—please assume a GTCYS activity will continue unless you hear otherwise. In the event of weather which might result in unsafe conditions, GTCYS will email families and post the notification on the affected orchestra's calendar at gtcys.org/calendar. Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by 1:00pm. It is parents' responsibility to check their email and GTCYS' website for an announcement. Online instruction may replace live instruction in the case of weather cancellations.

Students' health and safety is always our highest priority at GTCYS. We are aware that families come from across the region for GTCYS activities. Families should use their best judgement regarding travel and attendance.