

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Updated August 27, 2020 with future updates likely

Given the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, GTCYS has developed principles and protocols to aid in mitigating the risk of virus transmission at GTCYS activities. A true spirit of community solidarity is necessary for these policies to be effective: we are all in this together and each student, parent/guardian, and staff has an important part to play to create the safest possible environment for each other. However, no policy can eliminate all risk or guarantee complete safety.

Given that every family's health circumstances are unique, and families' comfort level with attending GTCYS activities may change throughout the season, GTCYS will provide a high level of communication, flexibility, and extra care to families as they work to navigate these new protocols.

Sincere thanks to all of our families for understanding the challenges, entrusting us to provide a music experience for students, and complying with these protocols.

GTCYS' Guiding Principles for Planning

- Protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and the GTCYS community
- Sustain our mission to provide accessible, high-quality music education through ensemble experiences
- Support students, parents, and staff with clear policies and transparent communication, and a commitment to adapt with changing circumstances

The following sections summarize GTCYS' protocols which follow industry guidance developed by the State of Minnesota, which is based upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommendations for COVID-19 with specific consideration to MDH's recommendations for Music Activities and Performances, and Minnesota's relevant and current executive orders. GTCYS will continue to refine and adjust these protocols as needed, keeping families informed along the way. For full details, refer to GTCYS' formal [Program Preparedness Plan](#).

Key areas of adaption for GTCYS' program operations include:

- Limiting participant group sizes
- Utilizing larger rehearsal spaces with significant square footage and ceiling height and sufficient ventilation
- Reducing length of rehearsals
- Maintaining social distancing
- Requiring face masks for all individuals and coverings for wind/brass instruments
- Requiring health screening steps for all staff and participants

Health Screening

- **Employees, volunteers, and parents/guardians (on behalf of their children) will be required to complete an online health screening survey prior to every GTCYS activity**, including weekly rehearsals.
- **No one may attend in-person activities if they are ill or have symptoms 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 if they have a suspected or confirmed active case of COVID-19.
- No one may attend in-person activities if they have been in contact with someone who has a suspected or confirmed active case of COVID-19.
- If an individual experiences COVID-19 symptoms during a GTCYS activity, they will immediately report to onsite staff who will direct that individual to a pre-determined isolated space until transportation home can be arranged.
- Employees, volunteers, and parents/guardians (on behalf of their children) will notify GTCYS program director Miranda Bryan (miranda@gtcys.org) immediately if they develop COVID-19-like symptoms and/or has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- GTCYS will support contact tracing efforts through clear and prompt reporting of known COVID-19 to parents/guardians, staff, and program venues, while respecting the privacy of individuals and applicable HIPAA requirements.
- In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within a GTCYS sub-orchestra, rehearsals for that group may temporarily move online depending on the timeline of possible transmission and incubation periods. These decisions will be further informed by MDH and CDC guidance and will be taken on a case by case basis.
- **GTCYS has waived the attendance policy** to encourage participants to stay home when ill; students will not be penalized for absences this year. See the full attendance policy for details.
- **Each rehearsal will be livestreamed** so vulnerable or symptomatic students can learn at home.
- GTCYS' leave policies promote employees staying at home when they are sick.

Social Distancing Measures

- GTCYS will uphold strict social distancing measures at in-person activities to ensure a minimum of 6 feet is maintained between all individuals.
- Upon arrival at the program site and before entering the dedicated activity space, each individual must check in at the welcome table to sanitize hands, verify that a health screening survey was submitted in advance, and have a temperature check.
- After checking in, students must carry all of their own belongings and proceed directly to their pre-assigned seat.
- Signage will mark entrances, spacing, and directional flow to limit contact and minimize congregating.
- Individuals must maintain a 6-foot distance between each other at all times.
- Orchestra layouts will be configured to ensure at least 6 feet between string participants and 9 – 12 feet between woodwind and brass players. There will be no stand partners sharing stands.
- Music folders will be distributed at the first rehearsal and left in each student's designated spot. Students are required to take and bring their own folders to each activity thereafter.
- To minimize the number of individuals at activities, only GTCYS students and a limited number of staff and volunteers will be allowed inside program facilities. Parents/guardians and all others will wait outside in vehicles, or drop off and pick up.
- Large group breaks will be replaced by short, stand-in-place stretch breaks.
- Individuals are prohibited from gathering in groups in any areas.
- Individuals are prohibited from using each other's personal protective equipment, phones, or rehearsal equipment such as music stands, music, pencils, instruments, and accessories.

- Students are asked to use bathrooms at home beforehand, but may use restrooms one at a time if needed during a program activity.
- Equipment (music stands, music, pencils, instruments) may not be shared between individuals.

Hygiene Protocols

- Employees and participants are instructed to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, and especially prior to attending a GTCYS activity.
- Upon arrival and before entering the activity space, each individual must:
 - Sanitize hands (sanitizer provided by GTCYS)
 - Check-in at the welcome table for a temperature check; anyone with a fever of 100° F or higher will not be allowed into the activity space and will be asked to go home. The individual will wait in a pre-determined isolated space until transportation home can be arranged.
- In accordance with MN executive order 20-81, all individuals attending any in-person GTCYS activity will be required to bring and properly wear a mask indoors at all times, even while playing.
- Students will be asked to provide their own masks, but GTCYS will have extra disposable masks on hand if needed.
- Woodwind and brass players will be required to wear specially designed face masks that will be left on while playing, and instrument coverings (bell covers, bags) will be required for their instruments.
- GTCYS' mask policy will be enforced by staff. Those not abiding by the guidelines will be removed from the GTCYS activity and asked to leave. Failure to consistently comply may lead to dismissal from the program.
- All employees and participants are instructed to practice proper respiratory etiquette (cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing).
- The use of disposable pads to collect condensation water will be required for all brass players. GTCYS will provide the pads and require students to dispose of the pads at the end of the activity and sanitize their hands immediately thereafter.
- Food and beverages will not be allowed at program sites, except for bottled water which individuals may bring on their own.

Ventilation protocols

- Ventilation protocols vary and will be determined by each independent program site rented by GTCYS. GTCYS will partner with each venue in pursuing optimal conditions for sufficient ventilation.
- These efforts will be supported by the fact that program locations have been moved to venues with extra-large rehearsal rooms (average 3,000 square feet) with tall ceilings, allowing for greater air flow and space.

Cleaning Measures

- Regular housekeeping practices are being implemented by program venues rented by GTCYS and will include daily cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, activity spaces, and restrooms.
- All shared orchestra equipment (chairs, percussion instruments, etc.) and high touch points will be disinfected between each use.
- Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be provided by program venues, with additional supplies purchased by GTCYS for use during program activities.

To read GTCYS' formal Program Preparedness Plan in its entirety, [click here](#).