



Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols

(REVISED January 3, 2022)

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The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra is committed to providing a safe and healthy rehearsal space for all students, staff and volunteers. The following COVID-19 Safety and Preparedness Plan has been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides policies and procedures adopted by the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra as well as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for use of Heinz Hall. The measures endeavor to protect PYSO members and staff, as well as mitigate the potential for spread of COVID-19. Those implementing and those affected by this plan are responsible for its success.

All policies have been developed with consideration for recommendations and/or orders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Allegheny County Health Department, **and in accordance with Heinz Hall policies** as well as best practices being developed in the performing arts industry. Only through the cooperative efforts of all of us in this organization can we establish and maintain the safety and health for all involved.

PYSO Parents and Students are responsible for:

- Reading all provided communications and asking questions to understand the policies and procedures as necessary.
- Following all policies and procedures so that we may continue to operate safely and in compliance with current federal, state, and/or local health and safety orders.

Heinz Hall is PYSO's home and where the majority of our rehearsals and performances will occur. For more information about Heinz Hall's Policies, please visit their Strongly Together webpage which contains more information and FAQ's: [**STRONGLY TOGETHER**](#).

In instances where PYSO utilizes outside venues for rehearsals or performances these policies will also apply, unless otherwise noted.

Masks/Facial Coverings:

Effective September 6, 2021 PYSO Students and Staff are required to wear a mask/face covering while at Heinz Hall whenever Allegheny County is in the CDC's "substantial" or "high" transmission level. This policy will remain in effect through **February 28, 2022** and may be extended if transmission rates remain high. All students are asked to bring their own masks/face coverings.

All woodwind and brass instrumentalists should wear a musician's mask when rehearsing. Flute players may request to pull down their masks when playing. All woodwind and brass are asked to bring bell covers. If you are not able to provide one, please inform a member of the PYSO Staff immediately.

Vaccinations:

Effective September 6, 2021 as students, staff, and audience will need to be vaccinated in order to participate in all rehearsals and performances at Heinz Hall and other venues in which PYSO rehearses and/or performs.

As PYSO students range from ages 13-20, all PYSO members are eligible to be vaccinated with an FDA emergency use authorized vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson). As of August 23, 2021 the FDA has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Proof of vaccination will be required for all staff, students, and audience at Heinz Hall. Students may submit a picture of their vaccination card to Eve Goodman (eve@pyso.org). All documents will remain confidential. Students may also show documentation at the first rehearsal to a member of the PYSO staff.

The following documentation is acceptable:

- Vaccination card (which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date last dose administered) OR
- A photo of a vaccination card as a separate document OR
- A photo of the attendee's vaccine card stored on a phone or electronic device OR
- Use of a Digital Vaccination Passport app OR
- Documentation of vaccination from a healthcare provider electronic health record or state Immunization Information System record.

If an exemption is necessary due to closely held religious beliefs or medical reasons, please bring this to attention of the PYSO Staff immediately. Exemptions will be appropriately considered in accordance with the policies of Heinz Hall.

Students with vaccine exemptions will be asked to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to each rehearsal and/or performance - either a PCR test taken within 72 hours of a rehearsal and/or performance, or an antigen test taken within 24 hours of a rehearsal and/or performance. A picture of the negative test **must** be emailed to Eve Goodman (eve@pyso.org) each week **by 4:00 pm on Sundays**, unless otherwise notified. All information will remain confidential.

Boosters

Pittsburgh Symphony and Heinz Hall policy indicates that being fully vaccinated includes any “additional vaccinations (e.g., boosters) as recommended by public health authorities.” Therefore, Heinz Hall will require that staff, orchestra musicians, students, and guest artists, who are 18 and older to receive a booster in to be considered fully vaccinated.

Based on the current recommendations for boosters, those students 18 and older should provide proof of booster within 3-months of the recommended booster date:

- Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna, within 9-months (6+3) after being fully vaccinated
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen, within 5-months (2+3) after being fully vaccinated

The CDC states that “You may choose which COVID-19 vaccine you receive as a booster shot... CDC's recommendations allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.” The type of booster is your choice.

The FDA and CDC have recently approved the Pfizer booster for children 12-17. We strongly encourage those eligible in that age range to receive the booster in the appropriate timeline.

Please email pictures of vaccination cards to Ms. Goodman at eve@pysoc.org. All information will remain confidential.

At Home Health Screening

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. To help decrease the risk of spreading COVID -19 as well as any type of infection, all students, parents, and guardians must complete the following self-screening assessment PRIOR to coming to Heinz Hall or other venues utilized by PYSO:

Students are asked to check their temperature before coming into the building to ensure it is below 100.4°F.

In the past 24 hours, have you experienced any of these symptoms that are not caused by another condition:

- o Fever or felt feverish
- o Chills (with or without repeat shaking)
- o Cough
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Fatigue
- o Muscle or body aches
- o New Loss of taste or smell
- o Sore Throat
- o Congestion or runny nose
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Diarrhea

In the past 10 days, have you experienced any of the following:

- o A positive COVID-19 test
- o Close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or who has symptoms

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS AND/OR HAVE ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS, PLEASE STAY HOME AS THESE INDICATE A POSSIBLE ILLNESS AND PUTS YOU AT RISK OF SPREADING ILLNESS TO OTHERS.

SHOULD YOUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE:

- symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or
- be in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or
- be diagnosed with COVID-19,

Please inform Bill or Eve immediately. All names will remain confidential.

In the event a student experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

Should your student experience symptoms consistent with COVID-19, PYSO will request that the student be evaluated by a health care provider and take a COVID-19 test prior to attending any rehearsals. Students experiencing symptoms will not be allowed to attend rehearsals. Student will be allowed to return to rehearsals upon being symptom free and receiving a negative COVID-19 test.

In the event of a close contact report:

As per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes.

For PYSO rehearsals, this will generally entail students to the right, left, in-front, and behind each other when they are seated at rehearsal. PYSO will maintain assigned seating to assist in any contact tracing. PYSO will notify all parents and students of those who were within the “close contact” via phone and email. If your student experiences a close contact situation outside of PYSO activities, please relay to PYSO Staff immediately.

A student will need to quarantine, if they were identified as a close contact:

If the student has completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago **and has not yet received a booster** dose OR completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago **and has not yet received a booster dose.** The student should:

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- Get a test, ideally 5 days after your exposure.
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

A student will not need to quarantine if they were identified as a close contact:

If the student **has received a booster vaccine dose** OR completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months. The student should:

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Get a test 5 days after exposure.
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

In the event of a reported positive COVID-19 case:

- Student must quarantine for 5 days from the day they first started experiencing symptoms
- Student must be fever free (w/o medication) for 24 hours before returning to any rehearsals
- Student will be requested to present a negative COVID-19 test before returning to rehearsals
- If Student never had symptoms, they can return 5 days after the date of their positive test (the date the sample was taken). They must wear a mask for an additional 5 days whenever they are around people.
- Any close contacts resulting from PYSO related activities will be notified immediately by phone and email.

Travel:

Should students travel, PYSO requests that all state and local guidelines are followed. CDC guidelines recommend that after travelling that one self-monitors for any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. PYSO requests that masks are utilized during any travel. Please inform PYSO staff immediately should any symptoms develop.

Heinz Hall:

Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout the Hall and backstage areas. Heinz Hall continues to test and upgrade their ventilation systems, ensuring that the Hall has excellent ventilation and air quality. Heinz Hall is being cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. Heinz Hall has also installed a Needlepoint bipolar ionization machine on stage to assist with ventilation and cleanliness. Bathrooms remain single use and are cleaned daily. Touchless sinks have also been added to the restrooms.

Rehearsal safety protocols:

Students are asked to enter and exit Heinz Hall (or any other venue) at the direction of PYSO staff.

PYSO reserves the right to increase this distance for the safety and comfort of its students.

Seating will be assigned by PYSO and all students must adhere to assigned seating. This is for safety and any contract tracing purposes.

Water bottles permitted backstage but not to be shared.

We encourage students to carry sanitizing wipes in their instrument case.

All woodwind and brass students should bring their own receptacle in which to empty their spit valves. Musicians should dispose of these at the end of rehearsal.

At the end of rehearsal musicians will close up and leave the building in an orderly fashion. Musicians will not be allowed to congregate inside the building. Musicians also should not congregate at the Heinz Hall entrances outside the building.

Woodwind and brass musicians should wear a Musician's mask (a mask with a hole in the center to accommodate mouth pieces, reeds, etc).

Percussion students will be provided sanitizing wipes and must wipe down instruments before and after rehearsal.

For the safety of our musicians and staff, family members will not be allowed to enter the building for rehearsals.

All PYSO students and staff are expected to adhere to posted signs and instructions regarding traffic patterns throughout Heinz Hall (or any other venue) as they apply to individuals.

Musicians should use the restroom before rehearsal starts. Musicians must observe the posted usage signs as determined by Heinz Hall (or other venues).