

COVID-19 POLICY of THE WALDWICK BAND

Summary: The Waldwick Band will take reasonable precautions to minimize transmission risk of COVID-19 to band members and its audience.

Scope: This Policy is intended to apply to the Waldwick Band rehearsals and performances.

Principal Contact: This Policy will be approved by the Board of the Waldwick Band. Questions can be directed to the President, Vice President or COVID committee.

I. INTRODUCTION

Objective: This policy is to document the band's goal to minimize COVID-19 transmission risk through protective measures, and outline a governance process.

Effective Date: This policy is effective as of August 8, 2021.

Waivers: Any waivers from this policy can be granted by the majority of the Board.

Changes to Policy: Any changes to this policy will be approved by a majority of the Board.

II. DEFINITIONS

The Community Band of Waldwick, also called the Waldwick Band or the band, is a volunteer organization of about 60 musicians who rehearse and play concert band music in northern NJ.

COVID-19 is a virus which caused a global pandemic starting in about December 2019 continuing through August 2021 and beyond. COVID-19 is unknown to the human immune system, is spread through aerosols, and can affect the entire body.

COVID Committee is a committee appointed by the Board with at least two members of the band, one of whom must be a Board member.

The Board includes band members elected as trustees under the band's by-laws.

CDC is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an operating division of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS,) which issues periodic guidance about public health and safety, including COVID.

NIH is the National Institute of Health, an operating division of the HHS, which carries out medical research to improve health and save lives.

Vaccination is the COVID-19 vaccine developed by pharmaceutical companies (Pfizer, Moderna, J&J,) approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration, and offered starting around January 2021. CDC and other scientific organizations have documented that COVID vaccines are effective against symptoms of COVID-19, including preventing severe forms of disease. As of late July 2021, published evidence shows that it is possible but rare that vaccinated persons can become infected and spread the Delta variant, but the vaccine remains highly protective against infection and serious disease.

Masking Advice: On July 27, 2021, CDC recommended that fully vaccinated people wear masks in public places where transmission rates are “high or substantial,” as shown by yellow and orange on transmission maps. The reason is to prevent spread of the Delta variant by vaccinated people.

III. Governance

Oversight of this policy and day to day operations shall be by the COVID Committee.

Substantial changes to this policy will be approved by a majority of the Board.

This policy will be reviewed and updated every six months, or more frequently as may be warranted by CDC and NIH recommendations, COVID pandemic developments, or other relevant developments that impact the band.

IV. Policy Requirements

The band will use layers of protections to minimize potential exposure to COVID. The primary protection is to require that all band members are vaccinated.

Feeling Well: Members who do not feel well should not come to rehearsal or a performance. The following known symptoms for COVID would mean someone feels unwell: fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, temporary loss of taste or smell, muscle ache and fatigue.

Vaccination: All band members must be fully vaccinated against COVID, which will be verified through confirmation from each band member, obtained by the COVID committee. (Fully vaccinated is two doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or one dose of J&J.)

Vaccine Booster: When a vaccine booster becomes available sometime in the fall of 2021, members will be encouraged to obtain the booster.

Social Distance: Efforts will be made to maximize space between band members, with 3 feet as the goal.

Ventilation: The band does not own its rehearsal space, and so cannot improve facility mechanical ventilation. Where possible, outside air flow will be maximized through open

windows and doors. Air purifiers with HEPA filters will be used to improve air quality. Air purifiers should not blow on anyone and should be placed away from physical obstructions.

Masking: CDC Guidance recommends that vaccinated people mask in public in areas of substantial or high transmission rates. The small number of people in the room and mandatory vaccination may reduce risk, but playing wind instruments raises the risk. Because the effectiveness of using masks modified for musical instruments and bell covers is not proven, and most of the band opposes their use during rehearsal, they will not be required.

Cleaning: Members are encouraged to wipe up any fluids that come from their instrument.

Training: A message to the band that summarizes this policy will be sent via email to the band, and periodic reminders given to the band at rehearsals by the COVID Committee. A message will also be posted on the Waldwick Band website.

Audience: The band values the health and safety of its audience. Measures such as blocking off seats or encouraging seating in small groups will be considered in advance of indoor concerts. Outdoor performances are considered low risk and do not require any special precautions.

Incident: If it is determined that a band member was infected with COVID and attended a rehearsal, the band will notify its members through the email group, and take public health measures as directed by the local public health authority.

V. Roles and responsibilities

The Board approves this policy, any revisions, and reviews it again in six months.

The COVID committee will collect Vaccination confirmation, issue relevant message to the band, carry out needed implementation such as setting up air purifiers or blocking audience seats, identify needed updates, and answer questions.

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