

COVID-19 POLICY of THE WALDWICK BAND

Summary: The Waldwick Band will respond to the pandemic by taking reasonable precautions to avoid the transmission of COVID-19 among 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.

Issue Date: August 23, 2021 Revision Date: n/a Effective Date: December 16, 2021 Version 2.0

I. INTRODUCTION

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

Effective Date: This policy is effective as of August 23, 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 New Jersey area. The band is organized as a New Jersey tax-exempt charitable corporation.

COVID-19 is the virus which caused a global pandemic starting in about December 2019 continuing through December 2021 and beyond, including the Delta, Omicron, and other variants. COVID-19 is a novel virus, and impacts the respiratory system, spread through aerosols or droplets.

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 who have been nominated and 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, which issues guidance about public health and safety.

NIH is the National Institute of Health, an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which carries out medical research to improve health and save lives.

Vaccination is the COVID-19 vaccine made by Pfizer, Moderna, J&J, and others, which is approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration, and offered starting around January 2021. *A booster shot, also called a third dose, is available as of about October 2021 six months after the primary vaccination series (Pfizer or Moderna) or two months after J&J single shot vaccine.* CDC and other scientific organizations have documented that COVID vaccination is effective against COVID-19, including reducing chance of infection and preventing severe illness. As of mid-December 2021, scientific evidence shows that vaccination, including a booster or third dose, is needed to bolster waning immunity and guard against infection and serious disease.

Masking Advice: On July 27, 2021, CDC recommended that fully vaccinated persons wear masks in public places, where the geography has transmission rates that are “high or substantial.” This was based on the spread of the Delta variant by vaccinated people. As of December 13, 2021, masks are required in New York state in indoor public places, to protect against Omicron, breakthrough infections, and those who are immune compromised or unvaccinated. Certain New Jersey municipalities have also required masks.

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 any significant or 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. Known symptoms for COVID include 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 means *three* doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or *two* doses of J&J.

Vaccine Booster: The vaccine booster, also called a third shot, is available as of around October 2021. Provided sufficient time has elapsed from the second shot, the booster is required to be considered fully vaccinated.

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 cannot improve facility mechanical ventilation. Where feasible, 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 effectiveness of masks modified for musical instruments and bell covers is not proven, and most of the band opposes their use during rehearsal. Masks will not be required during rehearsal, but are encouraged before and after rehearsal.

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, which includes vulnerable people. Measures such as masking, blocking off seats, suggesting that the audience sit 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. [END]