

Billings Youth Orchestra Covid-19 Protocols

The BYO will issue regular communications to parents and students regarding practices and policies aimed at promoting personal health and safety during the Covid-19 pandemic. Personal health and hygiene practices while attending BYO events will be required, as detailed below.

A. Personal Health

1. At Risk Individuals

BYO students and staff who are at increased risk for severe illness according to the CDC are encouraged to follow stay-at-home recommendations from the MT-DPHHS.

- Risk factors for severe illness include advancing age and certain underlying chronic medical conditions, such as heart, kidney, and lung disease and immunocompromised states. Specific information about these risk factors can be found on the CDC's website ([Increased Risk](#)).
- The MT-DPHHS recommends high risk individuals stay at home during Phase 1 and Phase 2 and recommend caution in reentering public spaces during Phase 3.

2. Sick or Potentially Covid-19 Positive Individuals

- a. All students and staff must complete an individual health assessment 24 hours prior to every rehearsal or performance to ascertain whether they have Covid-19 symptoms, which may include, as enumerated by the CDC, cough, fever, chills, difficulty breathing, headache, body aches, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell ([Symptoms](#)). Individuals will have their temperature when they arrive at the venue.
- b. Any individual who has symptoms of Covid-19, who has tested positive for Covid-19, **or who has been in close contact with someone who is positive or suspected of being positive for Covid-19** within the previous 14 days may not attend rehearsals or live performances and must notify their Conductor as soon as they become aware of the situation.
- c. All potentially ill or exposed individuals should consult their local physician and/or public health authorities for further medical advice including isolation and quarantine.
 - In Billings, the RiverStone Health public health information line is 406-651-6515.
 - CDC guidance on isolation and quarantine can be found on the CDC's website ([Isolation and Quarantine](#)).
- d. Students and staff may return to rehearsals when they are no longer considered infectious, per CDC guidelines ([End Stay-at-Home Guidelines](#)).
- e. Any student(s) or staff who develops symptoms of or tests positive for Covid-19 within 14 days after attending a rehearsal or performance should consult their local physician and

public health authorities and notify their Conductor and the BYO Executive Director immediately.

B. Rehearsals and Performances

1. Prior to each rehearsal and performance, all students and staff must do the following:
 - Complete an individual health assessment and a temperature check at the venue for *every day* of rehearsals or performances.
 - Any individual exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, not related to pre-existing conditions, or an elevated temperature may not be allowed to enter the rehearsal or concert venue.
2. Social Distancing
 - All seats in the rehearsal space or concert stage will be socially distanced at least 6 feet apart.
 - Individuals are encouraged to maintain 6 feet social distancing if possible when entering, exiting, and moving about the venue.
 - Everyone must respect all floor markings and roped areas, such as areas outside entrances and restrooms, designed to promote social distancing.
3. Hand Hygiene
 - Individuals must use hand sanitizer provided by the BYO upon entrance to and exit from the venue. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available at all entrances.
 - Everyone must wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer after the use of restrooms.
 - Handshakes, high fives, and other hand contacts are discouraged.
4. Respiratory Etiquette
 - Masks must be worn at all times when entering, exiting, and moving about the venue.
 - Mouth and nose should be covered with a tissue or elbow or shoulder when coughing or sneezing, even when wearing a mask.
 - No one should talk without wearing a mask. Talking should be kept to a minimum.

C. Life Outside the BYO

Students and staff are encouraged to be mindful of their behaviors outside the rehearsal and concert venue when considering their personal risk of exposure to Covid-19 and possible risk of spread to colleagues. Social distancing, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette are strongly recommended at all times.

D. Music

1. Music will be available at the first rehearsal or upon request.
2. After the final performance, students will drop their folders in a box outside the concert hall next to their designated warm up rooms.