Toronto Concert Band – COVID Safety Plan

Overview – Assessment of Risk

This document details TCB's COVID protocols

- Rehearsals will be held in Toronto where there are currently documented active COVID-19 cases, additionally it is recognized that playing of wind instruments is a relatively high-risk activity due to aerosol particles
- Recommendations for concert bands during the pandemic are spacing of 2m for all instruments and 3m for trombones
- Facilities should ensure 4.5-6 air exchanges per hour for optimal indoor conditions

General Considerations

- Throughout this document "Participant" refers to Musicians, Musical Directors, and Volunteers
- All individuals attending rehearsals are required to be fully vaccinated (Musicians, Musical Directors, and Volunteers)
- If a participant fails to comply with any of the requirements described in this document, it will be grounds for corrective action up to and including termination of membership
- These protocols will need to be reviewed and updated before TCB is ready to safely host a concert or performance

Facility Requirements

- The band is investigating new rehearsal space as the TDSB is not currently granting weekday permits
- The facility must be large enough to accommodate 2 metres of spacing between participants (3 metres for trombone players)
- Air exchange information will be communicated to the membership, so that participants can make informed decisions on whether to participate in the season
- The improvement of air quality/exchange to the greatest extent reasonably possible (within physical and budgetary constraints), up to ideal conditions, shall be an ongoing endeavour of band leadership

- The air quality/exchange will inform the decision on how long rehearsals will run. Participants may be required to leave the facility during a break (details to be confirmed).

Rehearsal Requirements

Before The Activity

Participant

- Participant must have received 2 doses of recognised vaccines no less than 14 days prior to participation
- Participant must complete the Ontario self-screen questionnaire prior to rehearsal https://covid-19.ontario.ca/screening/customer/
- Participant must not attend rehearsal if they do not get a clear "you can go" result through the screening tool

TCB

- A volunteer or TCB representative will be charged with setting up the space prior to rehearsal, ensuring chairs are spaced at least 2 metres apart (3 metres for trombones), and that the conductor's space has a minimum of 3 metres of spacing
- A volunteer or TCB representative will set-up for screening

Arrival at Rehearsal

- Participants must wear masks. Full masks are to remain on except when actively playing a wind instrument
- Participants will enter through the designated entrance
- Participants will maintain a distance of two metres as they line-up to be checked in
- The designated volunteer will:
    - Verify the participant vaccination status per the Ontario Vaccine Passport (First attendance for the participant only. Once completed, the participant's registration status will be 'accepted' in the TCB app)
    - Verbally validate with the participant that they cleared the Ontario self-screening app
    - Record attendance, in the TCB app, as each individual participant enters. Marking attendance will act as confirmation of the above requirements.
    - Record any individuals who are denied entry as they do not meet the vaccination or self-screening requirements (details of why the individual was turned away are to be considered confidential and will not be recorded)
- Hand-sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available for participants to use (including for purposes of wiping down seats)

- Participants will then proceed to their designated rehearsal space and may set up. Instrument cases should be stored beside the participant's chair.

During Rehearsal

- Participants should monitor their health during rehearsal, and if they feel ill, they must leave
- Participants must wear full masks when not actively playing wind instruments
- All wind instruments must use bell covers, brass and woodwinds (Participants to provide, standard recommends MERV-13 filter)
- Participants will not drain instruments directly onto the floor.
- Participants will provide suitable absorbent material for collection of saliva where required. They must also provide a suitable container (e.g. plastic baggie) for the storage of the soiled material.

Leaving Rehearsal

- Participants must wear full masks when not actively playing, including when getting up from their rehearsal space for any reason, and when leaving the facility.
- Participants will leave through the designated exit
- Participants will, when possible, maintain a distance of two metres as they leave the facility
- Participants shall refrain from cleaning their instruments while attending rehearsal. (This activity should be done at home).

After Rehearsal

- If a participant starts to show any signs of possible exposure to COVID-19 following attendance at a rehearsal, or test positive for COVID-19, they are to immediately communicate relevant information to covid@torontoconcertband.com
- TCB will contact the local Public Health Unit and defer to their instructions for next steps, including potential impacts to holding upcoming in-person rehearsals and instructions on when the impacted participant(s) can safely return to rehearsals.
- Medical confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible throughout this process, however TCB reserves the right to inform the affected members of a possible exposure/illness. All necessary steps will be taken to safeguard the identity, privacy and medical information of the affected participant(s).

Resources

Reopening Ontario

https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario
https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-health-safety-and-operational-guidance-schools-2021-2022 (specific chapter: https://www.ontario.ca/document/covid-19-health-safety-and-operational-guidance-schools-2021-2022/specific-academic-programs-and-requirements)

Ontario – Vaccination Passport

https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000779/ontario-to-require-proof-of-vaccination-in-select-settings

https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1000780/new-requirement-for-proof-of-vaccination-in-certain-settings-frequently-asked-questions

Ontario Band Association

https://www.onband.ca/resources

Ontario Music Educator's Association

https://www.omea.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Safe-Singing-and-Playing-in-Ontario-Music-Programs_S2-1.pdf

Canadian Band Association

https://www.canadianband.org/

Colorado Study

https://smtd.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2021/06/AerosolStudyPreliminaryResults_05.21.2021.pdf

National Federation of State High School Association

https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/