



Re-Opening Plan: 2022-23 Season

COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Information

September 8, 2022

OSYO is excited to welcome our young musicians to rehearsals and concerts for the 2022-23 season!

To ensure the safety of our musicians, staff, and volunteers, we would like to present our re-opening plan.

Our plan has been formulated in adherence to the following guiding principles:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for our musicians, conductors, staff, and volunteers
- Providing a consistently high-quality orchestral experience
- Maintaining close communication with, and adhering to Ontario's Ministry of Health, local public health unit (PHU) and Halton District School Board (HDSB) guidelines
- Active consultation with in-house medical professional on health and wellness policies

During our 2021-22 season, all age group of musicians in the OSYO were fully vaccinated (as defined by Public Health guidelines), and we **strongly recommend** that all new, incoming musicians be vaccinated.

All OSYO staff are also included in policy as defined earlier. We strongly recommend that all OSYO volunteers also be fully vaccinated. OSYO will only be providing in-person rehearsals during the 2022-23 season.

As a condition of enrollment, it is implied that all musicians (and relevant members) agree to comply with this re-opening plan. Through the season, any additional guidance from the Ministry will require further revisions to this document. It is important that families carefully review all communications from OSYO in this regard, to ensure their understanding and compliance with any new measures and/or directions put in place.

You play an important role in keeping our community healthy with a strong commitment to screening of your young musician(s) before coming to rehearsals and any other OSYO event.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. We wish you an enjoyable and memorable 2022-23 season!

If you have any questions, please contact OSYO General Manager, Laura Fitzpatrick at laura.fitzpatrick@osyo.ca.

OSYO Board



Rehearsals, Retreat and Concerts

OSYO is planning for all rehearsals, retreat, and concerts to be in-person unless Public Health guidelines change.

Protective Strategies

OSYO will employ multiple protective strategies and controls to support healthier and safer environments for musicians and staff as detailed below. Though a specific measure to prevent transmission does not exist, multiple structural and individual elements contribute to making our rehearsal environment healthier spaces and reduce the risk of infection to musicians and other members.

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy - Staff and Volunteers

Widespread vaccination is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19, building immunity in Ontario, and protecting our communities.

- OSYO strongly recommends that all volunteers and staff be vaccinated in order to create a safe environment for everyone involved.

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy - Musicians

OSYO **strongly recommends** that all musicians be fully vaccinated.

OSYO Medical Expert

OSYO has a board member that is a healthcare professional actively engaged and fluent in COVID-19 response. We welcome you to direct any questions or concerns to ahealeymd@gmail.com. If you have any questions relating to the vaccine, either Dr. Healey or his colleagues are available to provide formal, confidential consultation. Dr. Healey will not provide medical notes of exemption as these should be obtained from your family physician or specialist.

Self-screening

All staff, musicians and volunteers that do not pass the screening should not attend in-person rehearsals. Details of screening are as follows:

- All musicians and volunteers will be required to self-screen prior to each rehearsal and inform if they will not be at rehearsal the following evening.

Musicians are asked to always arrive 15 minutes prior to rehearsal start time. OSYO will no longer be screening at the rehearsal location with the expectation that the musician (parent) has already conducted self-screening.

Masks

- Masks are **strongly recommended** at all times by everyone while inside the school. All musicians are encouraged to bring their own masks.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All staff and volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear medical masks while inside the rehearsal area building.

OSYO has consulted with HVAC experts to determine the need for additional ventilation in all the rehearsal areas. To assist with that, the orchestra has procured portable air purifiers to be utilized in all the rehearsal rooms for different ensembles.

Hand Hygiene

Appropriate hand hygiene is an important protective strategy. All staff, and musicians will be expected to practice regular hand sanitization during rehearsals.

Parent Responsibilities

As a condition of enrollment, parents are required to acknowledge their understanding of and compliance with our Re-opening Plan. Over the coming season, additional guidance from the Ministry may require further revisions to this document. It will be important that families carefully review all communication from the school to ensure their understanding and compliance with any new measures and/or direction put in place.

The following is a list of required health strategies:

- Health screening is recommended to be performed by musician/parent prior to each rehearsal and other OSYO event.
- Musician will stay at home if feeling unwell.
- Individuals with symptoms and/or who have tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until they have no fever and symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastro-intestinal symptoms).
- If students develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at rehearsal/concert/other OSYO event, parents/guardians will be contacted for pick-up. It is recommended that all students wear a mask while waiting for their family.
- All OSYO events will be mask-friendly and actively promote respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environments for individuals who choose to wear or not wear a mask.
- Masking is still required for:
 - Individuals who experienced symptoms of COVID-19 (were symptomatic) should wear a mask for 10 days after symptoms started.
 - Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether they experienced symptoms of COVID-19, should wear a mask for 10 days from their test date.
 - All symptom-free (asymptomatic) close contacts (of people with symptoms and/or who have tested positive for COVID-19) should wear a mask for 10 days from their last exposure.

Breaks

A 15-minute break will be provided at an appropriate time (determined by the conductor) during rehearsals for Philharmonia and Symphony. There will be distribution of snacks during the break. If musicians are eating during breaks, musicians are encouraged to practice social distancing.