

Phase 5 Guidance for Community Bands

Nova Scotia has now entered phase 5 of its COVID reopening plan. The following is some guidance that community bands may find helpful:

Community bands are recognized as formal organizations as long as the band has an established organizational structure. This must include a person or persons who are responsible for establishing and maintaining COVID protocols as directed by Nova Scotia Public Health.

(The current protocols are described below)

- As formal organizations community bands are no longer subject to gathering limits.
- As formal organizations community bands are no longer required to social distance.
- Rehearsal duration is no longer subject to limitation.
- Masks are still required before and after rehearsals as well as during breaks.
- Community band members must provide proof of full vaccination in order to participate in rehearsals and/or performances. (This should be presented to the director or someone appointed by the organization whose duty it is to ensure that all members are fully vaccinated)
- The only exception to being fully vaccinated is a valid medical exemption provided by a doctor.
- Bell covers are optional and can be used at the discretion of each ensemble. (Note: Bell covers have been proven to reduce the spread of aerosols but their use is not required under public health guidelines at this time.)
- Encourage good hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing/sanitizing, puppy pads to absorb water from instruments, minimize sharing of music, sharing of instruments only when necessary (ie percussion, piano etc.)
- Band members should not attend rehearsal if they are feeling unwell.
- Continue to keep accurate attendance at rehearsals. This will facilitate contact tracing in the event of a COVID exposure at a rehearsal.
- In order to have their vaccine status recorded on a list each band member must complete a Consent Form for Recording Vaccination Status. (A template for this consent form can be found in the Proof of Full Vaccination Guide pg. 17) Without this consent proof of full vaccination cannot be recorded. Individuals who do not provide consent must present proof of full vaccination each time they attend a rehearsal or performance.

Thank you,
Steve Hartlen (he/him/his)
New Glasgow Academy, Band Director
Nova Scotia Band Association, President