At SYSO, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, faculty, coaches, and community. The SYSO Board of Directors, executive leadership, and staff members are continuing to assess SYSO’s response to the impact of COVID-19 in our community. We are utilizing information from Seattle Public Schools and other major school districts, the King County Department of Public Health, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control to guide our response. Given the fluidity of this situation, SYSO may evolve its policies or make additional decisions based on new information. This purpose of this communication is to provide one place for Academic Year Orchestra and Seattle Conservatory of Music parents to stay up-to-date with SYSO’s response to COVID-19 and to read responses to commonly asked questions from families.

**What is SYSO’s policy regarding student or family travel and excused absences?**

SYSO is following the policy of the Seattle Public Schools with regard to a 14-day recommended quarantine period for those students who have recently travelled to China. In addition, if your student has travelled to other countries with widespread sustained or sustained community transmission (SEE [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)) within the last two weeks, such as Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, we ask that your student stay at home from rehearsal. They are excused from rehearsal, and this absence will not count against them.

**What if a student or a family member has been exposed to COVID-19? Should the student come to rehearsal?**

The safety and health of our students is our top priority. In an abundance of caution, if a student or family member has had close or indirect exposure to another person diagnosed with COVID-19, that student is excused from rehearsal. This absence will not count against them. If a student has an illness or fever, please keep the student home.

**How do you define close or indirect contact?**

The CDC has provided risk assessment resources (see link below) to help individuals gauge their risk of exposure and recommended actions. You can also contact the Washington State Department Hotline at 1-800-525-0127. That said, we encourage parents to err on the side of caution to ensure the health and safety of SYSO students. (SEE [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html))

**Are we changing or canceling rehearsals or concerts?**

Rehearsals and concerts will continue as scheduled at this time. Please know that we are regularly monitoring the situation and may alter policies and decisions should the need arise. Again, if a student or family member has had exposure to another person diagnosed with
COVID-19, we ask that students take an excused absence from rehearsal. This absence will not count against them.

Please contact SYSO Executive Director Kathleen Allen at Kathleen.allen@syso.org if there are any questions about SYSO's policy or you need any updates.

We encourage families to review these resources:

- King County Department of Public Health (link to [www.kingcounty.gov/covid](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid))
- Washington State Department of Health (link to [https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus))

For students attending rehearsals, we encourage the following recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill.