

**Patriots Symphonic Band Statement on COVID-related
Issues**

September 4, 2021

First and foremost, we want all Patriots Band members to remain healthy and safe, whether at a band rehearsal or at home. As the Patriots Band moves to resume rehearsals and performances for the Fall 2021 season, please consider the following information:

The Patriots Band has a long history in the northern Ohio area and is in a strong position to help our community heal and gain encouragement through our musical performances. We welcome every member of the Patriots Band to rejoin us as we resume operations and work toward a meaningful and entertaining Christmas Concert on December 11.

The current plan is to resume regular full-band rehearsals at the First Congregational Church site in Elyria. We intend to be in the same general band rehearsal configuration but may attempt to provide slightly larger person-to-person spacing, if possible. Unfortunately, wearing masks while playing and maintaining six-foot social distancing are difficult for our group.

The Patriots Band is an all-volunteer organization and we want everyone to be with us, but participation is a personal choice. Each member of the band should assess their own health status and decide for themselves if the risk of participation is acceptable.

Out of respect for others, we do ask that if you are feeling unwell in any way, either with COVID-like symptoms or with symptoms of any other ailment, that you do not attend that rehearsal or concert.

Band members are welcome to sanitize themselves and their respective seating area, distance themselves to the maximum extent possible, and wear face coverings when able. Refreshments may be offered at the rehearsal break, but individuals are certainly permitted to bring their own snacks if desired.

State guidelines have authorized assembly of large groups, so we are proceeding toward that goal. Patriots management will continue to actively monitor the day-to-day COVID situation and legal mandates to make rehearsal go/no-go decisions. Our goal is to return to the same band operations as used prior to COVID.

Some of the other large musical groups in our area are already up and running with no reported COVID issues. Based on current guidelines, reports, and community requests, we believe that it is now time to come together again as the Patriots Band. The Patriots Band has been an important part of the Northern Ohio community for over forty years, and many people in the community are anxious to hear us again. We would like you all to be part of our return.

Patriots Band Board