



**EAST RANGE NEWS RELEASE**  
COVID-19 Response Team  
Regarding the Northern Lights Music Festival

The COVID-19 Response Team had a meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 with Superintendent Gregg Allen and Creative Director Veda Zuponcic.

There will be no in-person performances held on the East Range (Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, Town of White, or Biwabik).

Four rooms in an isolated section of the school will be opened to the Northern Lights Music Festival performers to practice. These rooms are separate from all sports and other activities taking place in the school. There will be a streamed performance which will be recorded in the Veda Zuponcic Auditorium for residents of the East Range and around the world to enjoy in their homes. During this streamed opera, the performers will be enclosed in plexiglass. There will be live outdoor performances in Virginia and Hibbing.

Trained district employees will disinfect all areas being utilized by the Northern Lights Music Festival after each day. The performers will wear masks while in the school.

The Northern Lights Music Festival performers will be required to wear masks while in public. They will be strongly encouraged to have a test for COVID-19 prior to starting rehearsal. The 13 performers staying on the East Range in the 2020 season all live in the United States, 4 of which reside in Minnesota.

The COVID-19 Response Team understands the concerns and fears of the communities, as well as the importance of the arts to the East Range. This is subject to change at any time.

Thank you,

COVID-19 Response Team

Becky Lammi, Aurora • Jeff Jacobson, Biwabik • Becky Burich, Hoyt Lakes • Jodi Knaus, Town of White  
Tim Soular, East Range PD • Amanda Gross, Mesabi East School Board  
Laura Ackman, Essentia Health Northern Pines