



IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATES

Disclaimer: The purpose of this paper is to provide resources and information groups can use to help them develop return-to-rehearsal protocols in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information contained in this document is not meant to substitute for medical recommendations, diagnosis, or treatment. Information is for informational purposes only. These considerations are meant help each individual group create their own set of risk mitigation protocols. The links provided at the end of this document should also be referred to as the information on COVID-19 continues to change rapidly.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR “WINTER AUDITIONS” DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

While discussing your groups audition process to prepare for a 2021 winter ensemble, please consider holding **video/virtual auditions**. This method has the least amount of risk involved for all participants.

- Release a video of choreography/or sheet music to learn as an audition
- Include a list of technical skills you want to be demonstrated
- Collect recorded submissions, or audition live via a “Zoom” type platform and scheduled audition times
- Conduct virtual one-on-one interviews with the prospective member

If you plan to have an “in-person” audition, the following are things to consider:

GUIDELINES & RESTRICTIONS

Discover your school districts/rehearsal facility, city, county, state and national public health recommendations and requirements to make sure your plan fits within those guidelines/restrictions. Remember: You may need to adhere to stricter protocols than those to keep your group healthy and safe whenever appropriate.

AUDITION STRUCTURE

- Reduce the number of people in one facility at one time
 - It is suggested to host 2-3 separate times or days of auditions to limit the number of participants to allow for 10 feet social distancing space while being active, and 6 ft of social distance space at all times.

- Reduce the length of the audition so overnight housing/communal sleeping spaces are not utilized.
- No shared food or “buffet” type settings.
- Consider an online preregistration with virtual payment to avoid a “check in process”.
- Require each student to bring their own equipment/instruments/sticks so there is no sharing of these items.
- Require each student to bring a personal towel or yoga mat to utilize in a full body stretch or warm up on the ground.
- Require each student to bring a personal water bottle. Hydration stations (water fountains, water cows, water trough, etc.) should not be utilized.
- Discourage spectators of the audition.

FACILITIES / CLEANING

- Rehearse outdoors when possible. If inside, open windows and doors to maximize air circulation.
- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all facilities. Bleach solutions or alcohol solutions with at least 70% isopropyl alcohol or 60% ethanol can be used. Refer to the CDC cleaning recommendations for further details and other cleaning and disinfecting guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- Prior to individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (chairs, furniture, storage rooms, instrumental equipment, bathrooms, etc.). If your facility is not doing that for you, make arrangements to do it yourself.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to all individuals.
- Shared musical playback equipment (speakers/ipods/cd players) should be wiped down thoroughly before and after an individual’s use of equipment.
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to shower and wash their rehearsal clothing immediately upon returning to home.

STUDENTS / STAFF ARRIVING

- All students and staff should be encouraged to stay home if they feel sick.
- All students and staff should be encouraged to wear face coverings and maintain at least six feet of distance from all sides when not actively rehearsing.
- A health screening of each student and staff member should be taken upon arrival. Screenings should utilize a no-touch thermometer and if temperature is > than 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit then the individual must go home.
- Ask questions for verification students are not feeling symptoms or have been exposed to (see monitoring form example - <https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812337/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-returning-to-high-school-marching-band-activities.pdf>)
- No hugs/handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- Mark 6 ft social distancing lines on the floor if you are having a “check in” space that may form a line. Students should maintain social distance during this process.
- Cash apps/Credit card transactions are preferred over cash. If you handle cash it is suggested you wear gloves.
- All Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in rehearsals.
- Directors must create a plan for getting instruments/color guard equipment from storage location to the practice facility that allows for social distancing and sanitation.

REHEARSING SAFELY

- Social distancing should be observed when music or choreography is being taught. Students should learn the music or choreography standing still, spaced at a minimum of 10-foot intervals. When actively rehearsing, students and staff should maintain at least ten feet of distance from all sides when possible. If teachers need to move closer to correct a student’s body position, embouchure, posture, etc. they should do so briefly and then move back away.
- Movement/Across the Floor
 - Students should avoid following right behind each other; it is considered safer to work next to each other.
 - Students should maintain 10 feet distance apart standing side by side in one line and allow each group to complete the combination to the end of the room before the next group starts.
 - Students should be reminded to maintain a distance of at least 10 feet when waiting to go across the floor and after completing the combination. [SEP]

- Weight sharing /partnering efforts are discouraged.
- Do not exchange equipment/sticks etc.
- Choreography should not include hands to face movements

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Wiping down equipment/ facility frequently.
- All staff and volunteers should wear face coverings and maintain 10 ft of distance from any rehearsals they are not involved in.

REFERENCES

“Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport.” NCAA.

<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/core-principles-resocialization-collegiate-sport> Accessed: 6/19/20

“Guidance: Return to Training and Sport Event Planning - United State Olympic and Paralympic committee.” <https://www.teamusa.org/coronavirus> Accessed: 6/18/2020.

“Guidance for a Return to High School Marching Band.” National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). <https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812337/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-returning-to-high-school-marching-band-activities.pdf> Accessed: 6/9/20

“Opening up America Again.” The White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/> Accessed: 6/3/2020.

“Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission.” Center for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>. Accessed: 6/9/2020.

“Return to Dancing and Training Considerations Due to-COVID-19”. Dance USA – Dancer Health Task Force. https://dance-usa.s3.amazonaws.com/page_uploads/COVID%20-%20RETURN%20TO%20DANCE%20-%20MAY%202020%20-%20PDF.pdf Accessed: 6/19/20

“Summer Marching Band Practices and Rehearsals: Requirements for All Practices & Rehearsals” University Interscholastic League, TX.

<https://www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band/marching-band-summer-practices-rehearsals-2020>

“Towards Aerodynamically Equivalent COVID-19 1.5 m Social Distancing for Walking and Running” Blocken, B., Malizia, F., Van Druenen, T. and Marchal, T., 2020. Urbanphysics.net.

http://www.urbanphysics.net/COVID19_Aero_Paper.pdf Accessed: 6 /19/20