

Report on Safety Protocols – Music Rehearsal Guidelines

This report is to clarify the music rehearsal guidelines. The overall goals are:

- Limit risk of exposure by maintaining social distancing throughout all activities conducted at the Houston ISD Music department.
- Emphasize personal hygiene such as hand washing and use of hand sanitizer upon entry and exit of facilities.
- Implement routine and enhanced cleaning and sanitization of music equipment and facilities.
- Plan and communicate safe access to facilities to minimize personal interaction and facilitate social distancing.

General Information:

- All components of the marching band will follow CDC, TEA, State of Texas, City of Houston, Harris County, and Houston ISD guidelines to ensure a safe learning environment.
- Contact tracing will be an ongoing practice daily until further notice. Directors will utilize an online form to track information.
- Campus specific plans will be publicized for the safe entry and exit of students to/from the campus daily. The entry and exit points will be coordinated to minimize personal interaction and to facilitate social distancing. The plans may include a staggered drop off and pick up times.
- All stakeholders should do a preliminary self-check by reviewing all Pre-Screening Questions prior to arriving at school. The self-check questions are listed below.
- All rehearsals closed to spectators.

Instructional Practices:

- Only small group instruction will take place at this time with a minimum of 6-foot distance between each student for indoor rehearsals and 7.5 feet for outdoor rehearsals
- No more than 30 minutes of indoor instruction wind instruments when utilizing inside spaces with a transitional time to clean area
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Staff Expectations:

- Head Band Director will train and communicate to all stakeholders regarding Covid-19 Protocols and Procedures for marching band
- Instructors will be required to wear mask at all times
- Instructors may utilize face shields as an additional barrier when instructing and monitoring students
- Shared percussion and color guard equipment will be disinfected after every use.
- Gloves will be utilized by staff for the cleaning of all equipment

- Music stands and chairs will be disinfected after every use by staff using district approved cleaners
- All breathing exercises must take place outdoors with a minimum of a 7.5-foot distance
- All singing exercises must take place outdoors with a minimum of a 7.5-foot distance
- All required forms, syllabus and music will be distributed electronically when possible
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed and utilized throughout the facility and outdoors
- When possible, the staff should assign student cases to be staged or placed in an outdoor secured space
- Require students to be dressed appropriately upon arrival, no changing facility will be available
- Encourage students to shower and wash hair daily to help mitigate the spread. In addition, wearing long hair up in a tall bun and covering it up
- Keep all egress clear for evacuation if needed

Student Expectations:

- No in person group social activities sponsored by the band until further notice
- No socializing before and after rehearsals on school property
- All personal items must be properly stored and removed daily
- Sharing of wind instruments/accessories and percussion mallets will not be permitted.
- No sharing of food and drinks
- No sharing of band instrument lockers
- Students must wear mask while entering and exiting the facility
- Students must wear proper mask when possible during rehearsals
- All marching band students will be responsible for bringing their own water supply. Sharing of water will not be allowed. All students need to bring enough water to last for the duration of the rehearsal. Each container should be properly labeled and stored. Campus ice machines and water fountains are not available
- Students should remain 6 feet apart at all times
- It is strongly recommended to shower and wash hair daily to help mitigate the spread. In addition, wearing long hair up in a tall bun and covering it up.
- It is strongly recommended that individuals of different households not travel in the same vehicle
- Emptying of spit valves indoors will be placed on a doggy pad or paper towel and removed by student directly after each rehearsal. Emptying spit valves outdoors should be done as low to the ground as possible.
- All cleaning/swabbing of woodwind instruments should take place at home
- Only one student at a time will be allowed to use the restroom. Students will be required to wash their hands for 20 seconds per restroom visit. Students are encouraged to use a paper towel when opening restroom doors and disposing them immediately into a trash can located outside the restroom door.
- Marching Bands: An updated and completed physical must be on file prior to the first day of rehearsal.
- Prior to arrival each day, every student must complete the screening questionnaire. If a student answers "YES" to any question or does not feel well, **they will stay at home and**

NOTIFY their director and let them know. The director will report incident as per HISD COVID-19 protocol.

- Any student who appears to have symptoms or who becomes sick during the day will be immediately separated from the others and **will be sent home**. The director will report the incident as per the HISD COVID-19 protocol.

Booster Guidelines

- No serving of water, snacks and food to students
- All meetings must take place virtually
- All booster interactions must follow staff expectations and protocols
- Information will be provided to all parents/guardians outlining procedures and protocols that will be used within VPA programs and extra-curricular activities.
- Parents will be updated on changes in protocol.

COVID Symptoms

- Congestion
- Cough
- Fever or chills
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills and/or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, Nausea or vomiting
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who has a lab confirmed to have COVID-19

If a staff member or student ANSWERS YES TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, THEY MAY NOT ENTER the school FACILITY AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN.

1. Do you have PPE?
2. Have you or anyone in the home had a fever over 100.F degrees or felt feverish (chills or shaking) in the past 48 hours?
3. Have you taken any fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen in the past the past 48 hours for reasons related to illness or fever?
4. Have you or anyone in the home shown signs of respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of sense of taste or smell) the past 48 hours?
5. Have you or anyone in the home shown signs of gastrointestinal illness (recurrent nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) the past 48 hours?
6. Have you or anyone in the home had new or worsening headaches or muscle pains in the past 10 days (excluding migraines or injuries)?
7. Have you or anyone in the home had any contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 the past 14 days?
8. Are you or anyone in the home under investigation or monitoring for suspected COVID-19?

9. If you have traveled outside the state of Texas in the past 14 days, please adhere to the Texas Department of State Health Services travel advisories and quarantine instructions listed on the COVID-19 webpage of its website under Information for Travelers.

Positive Cases and Staff or Students Showing COVID-19 Symptoms

Notify the school nurse for procedures, reporting, and contact tracing

- If a positive case is identified, either staff or student, the group to which that staff or student was assigned and in contact with must be isolated. If the confirmed individual regularly had close contact outside a single group, then all the students and staff with whom the confirmed individual had close contact shall be sent home for quarantined according to HISD policy. Schools should consider having students remain with a single group to minimize the number of students and staff that must isolate if a case is confirmed.
- For example: If a student in one group tests positive for COVID-19, the student and that one group must isolate. If that student was part of several groups, then the student and all the groups they were a member of would have to isolate.
- Any staff member or student who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate until district quarantine protocol is fulfilled.

Resources

- CDC. "Increased Risk for COVID-19." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 29, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/screening/index.html>.
- "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Updates – City of Houston Emergency Operations Center." Accessed September 16, 2020. <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19/>.
- "Opening the State of Texas | COVID-19." Accessed September 16, 2020. <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx>.
- "Reopening Guidance Documents." Accessed September 16, 2020. <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/Re-Opening-Guidance-Documents>.
- "Risk Assessment." Accessed June 18, 2020. <https://www.mh-freiburg.de/en/university/covid-19-corona/risk-assessment>.
- US EPA, OA. "Coronavirus (COVID-19)." Overviews and Factsheets. US EPA, March 11, 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>.