

HISD Choral Music Guidelines

- 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.

Instructional Practices:

- When students are not singing or playing an instrument that requires the use of their mouth, they should wear a mask in music class (unless class is outdoors, and distance can be maintained).
- Active singing is allowed for a maximum of 30 minutes.
- Students must be at least 6 ft apart even if the room allows for more students per current guidelines.
- Teacher and students should leave the classroom after 30 minutes of singing for air circulation and rejuvenation of fresh air for the next class.
- Sharing music documents and uniforms is not allowed.
- Social distancing helps protect students in music class.
- While students are singing or playing an instrument, use visual cues to keep them at least 6 feet apart.
- If it is safe and weather permits, consider moving class outdoors where air circulation is better than indoors and maintain at least 6 feet distance between students.
- Recommend discontinuation of uniform until further notice.
- Utilize digital submissions and recordings

Staff Expectations:

- Instructors are always required to wear mask
- Instructors may utilize face shields as an additional barrier when instructing and monitoring students
- Gloves will be utilized by staff for the cleaning of all equipment
- Music stands and chairs must be disinfected after every use by staff using district approved cleaners
- All breathing exercises must be a minimum 6 feet distance and can take place outdoors if possible
- All singing exercises must be a minimum 6 feet distance and can take place outdoors if possible
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed and utilized throughout the music room
- Require students to be dressed appropriately upon arrival, no changing facility will be available

Student Expectations:

- Students must wear proper mask when possible during rehearsals
- Students should remain 6 feet apart at all times
- No sharing of food and drinks
- 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.
- 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