

Bay District Schools

Guidance on Safe Return to Marching Band and Performing Arts

MINIMIZING RISK: MANAGING SCHEDULES & GROUP SESSIONS:

- Students are required to let directors know if they themselves, family members, or those they have had contact with are experiencing or have experienced any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Stress that they should stay home if sick or if they have had contact with those who have Covid-19 or Covid-19 symptoms. Have thermometers available to check students for fever. **Communication is the key!**
- Adhere to social gathering and distancing policies at your school according to local, state, and federal authorities during indoor and outdoor activities (6 feet apart)
- Group size counts should include both students, staff, and account for transition periods between sessions.
- Limit or stagger groups throughout sessions/ or alternate days.
- Consider grouping students in cohorts to maintain gathering limits.
- Schedule post-practice cleaning periods, allowing a 15 minute buffer between groups.
- Utilize one-way traffic flow based on entrances and exits when possible.
- Use outdoor rehearsal spaces whenever possible.
- Keep interior doors propped open and lights on throughout the day.

FACILITY & EQUIPMENT: CLEANING & SANITATION PROCEDURES

- Clean all interior room surfaces with EPA approved germicidal disinfectant after daily use. **DO NOT USE BLEACH.**
- Students have the option to bring their own masks and gloves for individual use.
- Educate on facility Covid-19 upkeep expectations during meetings with students.
- Promote hand washing before and after sessions and provide hand sanitizer.
- Keep extra bottles of disinfectant for students to clean instruments, equipment, and props after each use.
- No sharing of cloth towels or rags.
- Carry a personal water bottle instead of drinking directly from the community water fountain (Do not share water bottles). Disposable cups may be used for one time use only. Please cover all water fountains.
- Ensure that cleaning and sanitation procedures include restrooms, carpet and flooring, and water fountains.
- No sharing of musical instruments, microphones, whistles, sheet music, color guard equipment, or related items.

Any violations of these procedures may cause suspension of all activities at the violating school. Principals are responsible for following these guidelines and for making sure that performing arts directors adhere to them.

Guidelines for Phases 1-3

*Derived from guidance set forth by the National Federation of State High Schools Association and National Association for Music Education.

Phase 1

Pre-Practice Screening:

- All performing arts directors, assistants, and students should be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a practice. Screening includes a temperature check.
- Responses to screening questions for each student are to be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19 (see Appendix A for Monitoring Form).
- Any person with the symptoms listed on the monitoring form should not be allowed to take part in practice and should be sent home with a recommendation to see their primary care physician.
- Students who were identified by health officials as positive for COVID-19 must follow guidance from the Florida Department of Health in Bay County.
- Vulnerable individuals with underlying health issues should not participate in any practices during Phase 1.

Gatherings:

- No more than 10 people at a time (inside or outside).
- Students are not permitted to store clothing in lockers. Should report to practices in proper clothing and immediately return home to shower at end of the practice.
- Practices should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 students always practicing together. Smaller pods can be utilized as needed. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- There must be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times. If this is not possible indoors, then the maximum number of individuals in the room (10) must be decreased until proper social distancing can occur.

Phase 2

Pre-Practice Screening:

- All performing arts directors, assistants, and students should be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a practice. Screening includes a temperature check.
- Responses to screening questions for each student are to be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19 (see Appendix A for Monitoring Form).

- Any person with the symptoms listed on the monitoring form should not be allowed to take part in practice and should be sent home with a recommendation to see their primary care physician.
- Students who were identified by health officials as positive for COVID-19 must follow the guidance of the Florida Department of Health in Bay County.
- Vulnerable individuals with underlying health issues should not participate in any practices during Phase 2.

Gatherings:

- No gathering of more than 10 people at a time inside. Up to 50 individuals may gather outdoors for practices with appropriate social distancing.
- If band rooms or meeting rooms are used, there must be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times.
- Practice should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 students always working together. Smaller pods can be utilized for specialized coaching. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- There must be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times. If this is not possible indoors, then the maximum number of individuals in the room (10) must be decreased until proper social distancing can occur. Appropriate social distancing will also need to be maintained for outdoor practices.

Phase 3

Pre-Practice Screening:

- Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in practices and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- A record should be kept of all individuals present.
- Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions, but should practice physical distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed.

Gatherings:

- Gathering sizes of up to 50 individuals, indoors or outdoors are permitted.
- When not directly participating in practices, care should be taken to maintain a minimum distance of 3 to 6 feet between each individual.

