

Responsible RestartOhio

K-12 School and Collegiate Band, Choir, Dance Teams and Other Similar Performance Activities



In addition to this state guidance, K-12 schools and universities also must also follow any additional health rules for the prevention of COVID-19 from their governing bodies that are more restrictive than this minimum health guidance. Independent youth cheer, dance, and other performance teams also must follow relevant guidance from the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The primary purpose of permitting spectators is to allow and encourage the family members and loved ones of performers to observe and share in the experience.

Performers, Directors, Coaches, Staff, and Volunteers

Mandatory

- Performers, directors, coaches, staff, and volunteers must conduct daily symptom assessments before each practice/rehearsal/performance.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.*
- Directors and coaches must (1) Participate in COVID-19 education developed for them by the Ohio Department of Health, and (2) Educate their performers on how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 using resources provided by the Ohio Department of Health.
- Directors and coaches must promote good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Flyers and signs are available at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/>.
- No congregating before or after practices/rehearsals/performances by performers, directors, coaches, staff, or volunteers is permitted.
- Directors, coaches, staff, and volunteers must wear face coverings at all times, and performers must wear face coverings when not performing, except for one of the reasons stated in the Director's Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio signed July 23, 2020 (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Order-Facial-Coverings-throughout-State-Ohio-reader.pdf>) or as it may thereafter be amended. Directors and coaches are not required to wear facial coverings when directing practices, rehearsals, or performances and the use of whistles is necessary. *(Written justification must be provided to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a director, coach, performer, staff, or volunteer is not required to wear a facial covering when not rehearsing or performing. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)*
- Performers, directors, coaches, staff and volunteers must strictly follow Ohio's face coverings Order when out in public in order to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 and potentially spreading it during practices/ rehearsals/ performances.
- Event sponsors, directors, coaches and staff should specifically review protocols for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED's). Effective CPR and the use of an AED can be life-saving interventions for an individual with a cardiac arrest related to high-intensity exercise after recovery from myocarditis due to COVID-19.

Recommended Best Practices

- When possible, a face covering with a small slit for mouthpiece access should be worn while playing an instrument. In instrument groups where a face covering cannot physically be worn while playing, a face covering should be worn over the chin and replaced during periods when not playing.
- All music performing ensemble directors and classroom music instructors should monitor COVID-19 information and resources from the Ohio Music Education Association. Recommended guidelines for Instrumental and Choral performing ensembles as well as best practices for all music instruction are available on their website at www.omea-ohio.org.
- Directors and coaches should identify performers at higher risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19, such as those with asthma, diabetes or other health problems and take extra precautions to protect them.
- Ask a parent/volunteer to help monitor/ensure social distancing on teams of young children.
- Performers should consider wearing face coverings while at home to protect family members who may be at higher risk.
- All music performing ensemble directors and classroom music instructors should review and consider implementing guidance from the National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education, including the guidance found here: www.nfhs.org/media/4119375/nafme_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-august-18-2020-updated-version.pdf.
- Monitor the findings of an ongoing COVID-19 study commissioned by a coalition of performing arts organizations and implement recommendations. (<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>).

Spectators

- Spectators must conduct daily symptom assessments before each practice/rehearsal/performance.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.*
- Seat spectators at least 12 feet (preferably more) from performers. If necessary, do not allow patron seating in the front row(s) to maintain such distancing.

Mandatory

Spectators (cont.)

- The maximum number of individuals gathered in an OUTDOOR venue is the lesser of 15% of fixed, seated capacity or 1,500 individuals. The maximum number of individuals gathered in an INDOOR venue is the lesser of 15% of fixed, seating capacity or 300 individuals. These capacity limits apply unless a venue's local health department and the Ohio Department of Health approve a venue's variance plan for a different maximum capacity limit.
- Social distancing must be maintained throughout the venue, and seating must be arranged and assigned to allow for 6 feet in each direction between groups of: (1) No more than four individuals, or (2) Members of one household (i.e., parents/guardians and dependent children) of a performer, director, coach, staff, or volunteer.
- Family members should sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/family groups.
- Spectators must wear face coverings at all times except for one of the reasons stated in the Director's Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio signed July 23, 2020 (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Order-Facial-Coverings-throughout-State-Ohio-reader.pdf>) or as it may thereafter be amended.
- No congregating before or after practices, rehearsals or performances is permitted.

Recommended Best Practices

- It is recommended that, if possible, school and organization officials should prioritize tickets distribution or event access to the families and household members of performers, directors, coaches, staff, and volunteers.

Auditions/ Practices/ Rehearsals/ Performances/ Competitions

- A minimum of six-foot social distance must be maintained between individuals when practicing/ rehearsing/ performing.
- Performers, directors, coaches, staff and volunteers are not to physically contact each other before or after practices/rehearsals/performances (i.e. greetings, huddles, high-fives, congregating, etc.).
- Limit time spent on practices/ rehearsals where performers are in close proximity for extended periods of time.
- Facilities must have adequate space for social distancing for performers, directors, coaches, staff, volunteers, and spectators off the field/court/ stage of play.
- No congregating before or after practices/rehearsals/ performances is permitted.
- Prior to competitions involving multiple bands/teams, organizers must alert the local health department.
- Contact the local health department weekly regarding the status of COVID-19 in the community.

- When possible, conduct practices/ rehearsals/ performances outdoors where ventilation is better.
- When actively practicing/ rehearsing/performing, continue to maintain social distancing to the extent possible (more than six feet is recommended) given that these activities may increase the risk of airborne transmission of the coronavirus.
- During practices/ rehearsals, consider putting performers in small groups that remain together through practices/rehearsals rather than mixing groups.
- Arrange indoor auditions/rehearsals in 30-minute blocks and afterward clear the room for enough time to allow the HVAC system to complete a minimum of one air change based on the system's air change rate (consult with facility personnel).
- Arrange outdoor auditions/rehearsals in 30-minute blocks with a 5-minute pause between blocks to allow aerosol particles to disperse.

Equipment/ Instruments

- Whenever possible, equipment and personal items must have proper separation and must not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation must be performed between users.
- Do not share towels or facial coverings.
- Do not share water bottles or other drinks.
- Do not share food.
- Do not empty musical instrument spit valves close to others.

- If possible, competing performers/teams should not use the same equipment.
- Make sure there are adequate supplies of items and equipment to the extent possible to minimize the need for sharing.
- Take measures to reduce the spread of air expelled from musical instruments such as installing bell/instrument covers.

Facilities/ Venues

- Time must be allotted between practice/rehearsal/ performance sessions to allow all musical ensembles, teams, and other performing groups to exit fields/facilities prior to new groups arriving and for proper sanitizing of shared spaces and high-touch surfaces (benches, equipment, etc.).
- Organizers of competitive performances/competitions must follow applicable guidance for venues in which the performance/ competition is held.

- Close shared spaces such as locker/dressing rooms, if possible. Otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.
- Limit the number of participants sitting in confined participant seating areas by allowing them to spread out into other areas if more space is available.

Mandatory

Facilities/ Venues (cont.)

- Promote good hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, social distancing, and no congregating permitted. Flyers and signs are available at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/>.
- Make hand sanitizer available at convenient locations.
- Enclosed shared spaces such as locker/dressing rooms must stagger use and be cleaned and disinfected between use. Individuals must maintain social distancing as much as possible while in these rooms. Facial coverings must be worn at all times while in these rooms.
- When playing inside, ensure ventilation systems or fans operate properly. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, such as opening windows and doors unless doing so poses a safety or health risk.
- Follow all of the Responsible RestartOhio guidelines for “Sports and Entertainment Venues” available on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website.
- Food concessions operations must adhere to Ohio’s guidance for “Restaurants, Bars, Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services” (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Restaurants-and-Bars.pdf>).

Band/Team/ Group Travel by Bus, Etc.

- High school non-competitive bands cannot travel to away contests and may perform at home contests only.
- Conduct a pre-travel symptom and temperature check immediately prior to departure. Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and contact their healthcare provider.
- Individuals traveling together by bus, etc., should wear a facial covering and social distance where possible while in the vehicle.

Travel Teams/ Traveling to Competitions

- For out-of-state travel, follow the COVID-19 guidance of the state and local public health jurisdiction to which the team is traveling.

Confirmed Cases

- Any performers, directors, coaches, staff, volunteers, or others who become ill or develop COVID-19 symptoms must be immediately isolated and seek medical care.
- Contact the local health district about suspected COVID-19 cases or exposure.
- The affected person should seek COVID-19 testing as soon as possible. All music groups/teams/schools must work with parents to ensure they have access to testing through their healthcare providers or direct them to the coronavirus.ohio.gov website for testing resources.
- Coaches/directors/administrators must work with the local health department to identify individuals who were potentially exposed to help facilitate contact tracing. This includes, but is not limited to, performers, directors, coaches, staff and volunteers.
- A music group/team/school must notify all performers and parents/guardians associated with the affected music group/team regarding a positive test. Performers and families must be reminded of proper daily health screening protocols.

Recommended Best Practices

- Indoor venues should follow American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) guidance and resources (<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/resources>).

- Limit use of carpools. Encourage performers to only ride with others in their household if possible.

- Limit use of carpools. Encourage performers to only ride with others in their household if possible.
- To the extent possible, compete only against teams in your local area. Traveling outside the local community may increase the chances of exposing performers, directors, coaches, staff, volunteers and spectators to COVID-19, or unknowingly spreading it to others.

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective exposure notification and contact tracing.
- To the extent possible, facilitate testing of all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact the local health department to initiate appropriate care and exposure notification.
- Schools/teams/ organizations establish a partnership with a local healthcare provider to help accelerate testing if needed.
- When a performer tests positive for COVID-19, fellow members of the band, choir, or cheer or dance team who are not close contacts requiring self-quarantine as determined by the local health department, should conduct (1) Daily symptoms assessment and stay home if sick, and (2) An in-person temperature check before the start of each practice/rehearsal/ performance for 14 days as a precaution.

Mandatory

Confirmed Cases (cont.)

- If the affected individual participated in a competition, the school/team is responsible for notifying any opponents played between the date of the positive test and 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms. If the teams/schools/ organizations reside in different counties, the health departments in each county must be notified to help facilitate effective contact tracing.
- An individual who tests positive for COVID-19, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, must not return to practices/rehearsals/performances until (1) meeting the CDC requirements for ending self-isolation using either a symptom-based or test-based strategy** and (2) a documented medical exam is performed clearing the individual prior to the individual returning to participation in practices/rehearsals/performances. The documented medical exam must specifically include an assessment of the cardiac/heart risk of high-intensity exercise due to the potential of myocarditis occurring in COVID-19 patients. More information on this issue can be found at <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2020/07/13/13/37/returning-to-play-after-coronavirus-infection>.
- Performers, directors, coaches, staff and volunteers who had close contact (within six feet of an infected individual for at least 15 minutes), or who had direct physical contact with the person, or who were coughed or sneezed on by the infected person (e.g., who were coughed on or sneezed on by the infected person) must self-quarantine for 14 days following exposure based on CDC guidance.*** If the identity of all persons in close contact with an infected individual cannot be readily determined or if the directors, coaches or performers (or their parents/guardians) or administration of the team do not effectively cooperate with the local health department contact tracing process, then the local health department may require the entire team, including coaches, to self-quarantine for 14 days following exposure. Individuals may return to play afterward if they have not had any COVID-19 symptoms.

Recommended Best Practices

* Per CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update symptoms as more is learned about COVID-19. CDC's list of COVID-19 symptoms and a "self-checker" is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

** CDC guidance on "When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19" at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>.

***CDC guidance on "Quarantine If You Might Be Sick (Stay Home if You Might Have Been Exposed to COVID-19)" at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>.