

Reopening Guidelines for Performing Arts Archdiocese of Philadelphia Secondary Schools

General Guidelines

Arrival and Dismissal

1. Rehearsal rooms, like classrooms, must provide 6 feet of separation for each individual.
2. Maximum number of persons for a room may not exceed the number of persons advised by the CDC.
3. Designate one door for entrance and one door for exit when possible within the rehearsal room.
 - a. For after school rehearsals, the music director or moderator must complete a temperature check for each student.
 - b. Masks must be worn by all teachers and students at all times, including upon entry and exit.
4. Provide hand sanitizer for student use at the entrance and exit.
5. Students may not congregate prior to or following a class or rehearsal. Students should be prepared to exit immediately.

Rehearsal Space & Materials

1. If possible, a large space should be utilized for ensemble classes (band, choir, orchestra, theatre, dance), including but not limited to an outdoor space, auditorium, gymnasium, or cafeteria.
2. Rehearsal rooms, like classrooms, must provide 6 feet of separation for each individual.
3. Maximum number of persons for a room may not exceed the number of persons advised by the state which is 25 indoors and 250 outdoors. There also may be local regulations..
4. Students may not store any personal belongings, including instruments, sheet music, bags, or props within the music classroom/rehearsal space.
5. No food is permitted in rehearsal rooms.
6. Measure classrooms to determine the best setup for each class to adhere to social distancing requirements. Straight rows may allow for more space between students than the traditional arch shape.
7. Create a template of the desired length that will meet CDC, state and local guidelines for social distancing, and mark spaces on your floor where chairs and stands will be placed.
8. Create an assigned seating chart for each class so that students may enter and exit as efficiently as possible.
 - a. No student may change chairs so that effective contact tracing may be established.
9. Students may not share rehearsal materials, including sheet music, music stands, pencils, water bottles, and any other materials.
 - a. When possible, sheet music should be made available online to be accessible on a personal device. Appropriate quantities of digital copies must be purchased in order to maintain copyright.
10. Regularly wipe down all chairs, music stands, and any other high-contact locations within the rehearsal space.
11. Teachers should consider supplementing ensemble instruction with other types of music instruction, including music history, music appreciation, and music theory, as well as synchronous instruction through Zoom.

Scheduling

1. If music classrooms and rehearsal rooms remain open in the fall, music educators will need to work with their administration and other leadership to devise cleaning protocols and cleaning schedules between each set of music students using the room.
2. If two or more teachers team teach large ensemble classes, and all students enrolled are not permitted to meet, the class can be divided into smaller groupings where facilities allow. Some content can be delivered to both groups through virtual means.
3. There may be situations that create a need to move to a fully virtual model. Teachers who teach multiple grade levels and/or contents may find it helpful to consolidate virtual instruction to meet the individual needs of all learners. Classes may require two different types of instruction.
4. Large ensembles may need to be reorganized into multiple classes that meet at different times to satisfy social distancing guidelines. Class splits can occur by creating sections led by a head director and assistant directors. If circumstances permit staff from other levels of music education to be available within the school district, these staff members could help split large ensembles into smaller groupings, provided there is adequate rehearsal space.
5. Small music groups can meet in many different areas in and outside of the school building if facilities space is limited due to the creation of multiple smaller size classes.
6. Work proactively with administration in determining the space available vs. the space needed, depending on projected music enrollment. This may lead to discussions of shorter classes and more periods throughout the day or week.

Safety Precautions

1. Music teachers must wear a facemask at all times.
2. All teachers and students should use hand sanitizer before and after a rehearsal.
3. High contact areas, including chairs, music stands, and instruments, must be sanitized after each rehearsal.
4. For extracurricular rehearsals, music director should check temperatures for all participating students.

Performances: **Because of current COVID restrictions, beginning live performances after January 1st is recommended.**

1. All scheduled indoor performances must be in compliance with CDC, state, and local guidelines surrounding large indoor gatherings. Maximum gathering size is 25 indoors and 250 outdoors.
2. Performances should be moved outdoors whenever possible, and must be in compliance with CDC, state, and local guidelines surrounding large outdoor gatherings.
3. Alternative performance options, including "virtual ensembles," live-streamed performances, and solo performances are encouraged. Performers should follow social distancing guidelines when performing.

Guidelines for Instrumental Music

1. Students must be spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart in the rehearsal space.
2. String and percussion players must wear a face mask at all times. Wind and brass players must wear a mask when not playing. If possible, wind and brass players should acquire masks with appropriate slits to accommodate for leaving a mask on while playing.
3. Students may not share sheet music or music stands.
4. When possible, plexiglass should be placed on the music stands of wind and brass players.
5. Class should be conducted outdoors whenever possible, or in a larger school space (i.e. auditorium, gym, cafeteria).
6. All sheet music and course materials must be distributed electronically to student devices, or given as physical copies that must not be recollected.
All sheet music distribution must be in compliance with copyright laws.
7. Students are responsible for the daily cleaning of their instruments, and should be instructed on proper instrument cleaning protocol. Music teachers should instruct students on required and appropriate cleaning of instruments. ([Click this link to read about proper instrument cleaning procedures.](#))
8. Students may not store instruments in the band room. If possible, designate a space in a locker room for the storage of instruments. Students may not share lockers. Instruments that are stationary in the band room/rehearsal space should be sanitized by the band director following each rehearsal.
9. Private lessons and small group lessons should continue with a minimum of 6 feet of distancing, the use of plexiglass, and preferably outdoors.
10. Consider meeting with small sections of the ensemble at a time (by instrument class, by grade, etc.)
11. Band director must wear a mask at all times.

Guidelines for Choral Music

1. Students must be spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart in the rehearsal space.
2. Students must wear a face mask while singing to prevent the spread of aerosols.
3. Classes should be held outside whenever possible, and should be conducted in a large space (i.e. auditorium, gym, cafeteria) if outdoors is not possible.
4. Alternative activities to singing should be utilized when outdoor spaces and large spaces are not possible to be used.
5. All sheet music and course materials must be distributed electronically to student devices, or given as physical copies that must not be recollected.
 - a. All sheet music distribution must be in compliance with copyright laws.
6. Director should provide additional resources to assist with part-learning at home, including video and audio tracks.
7. Private voice lessons and small group sectionals should continue with proper distancing protocols in place.
8. Choir director must wear a mask at all times.

Guidelines for Theatre

1. Students must wear a face mask at all times during rehearsal.
2. There is to be no physical contact between student actors.
3. When dancing, students must feet apart when possible and feasible, and there should be no physical contact between student dancers.
4. If multiple students are involved in a singular performance, face masks must be worn by performers at all times.
5. All performances must follow CDC, state, and local guidelines for large indoor and outdoor gatherings.
 1. Consider virtual performance opportunities when possible.

References

1. National Federation of State High School Associations & National Association for Music Education Fall 2020 Guidelines for Music Education:
https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812373/nafme_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-review-june-19-2020-final.pdf
2. American Choral Directors Association COVID-19 Response Committee Report:
<https://acda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACDA-COVID-19-Committee-Report.pdf>
3. International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study (Preliminary Results):
<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029971/preliminary-recommendations-from-international-performing-arts-aerosol-study.pdf>
4. Guidelines for Student Instrument Cleaning:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k2l9jHPWWkYJUwp2zqp5MuVcHKAXlaRw/view?usp=sharing>