

D87 Music Families,

We have reviewed important research studies on the spread of aerosols in relation to wind instruments and vocal singing in music rehearsal settings. Recommendations from a [research-based study](#) at the University of Colorado, information from the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS), information from the Percussive Arts Society (PAS), and guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) were used to develop safety protocols for our music classrooms. We have taken multiple measures to manage safety while playing or singing as a group during indoor ensemble rehearsals.



Music Classrooms General Information

Air Quality

Our schools and rehearsal locations allow for regular air exchanges that meet safety expectations.

Distancing

Music classrooms will maintain the minimum 6-foot distancing requirement. Classroom floors will be marked with 6-foot spacing front to back and side to side. In band classrooms, trombones will have 9 feet front to back in accordance with recommendations.

Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Wipes

Each music room will have dedicated Hand Sanitizer and Disinfecting Wipe stations for student use.

Instrument and Supply Storage

Students will store their instruments, in cases, in their assigned area. Teachers will establish storage assignments to ensure students are not crowded while getting or storing their instrument. Touch points will be reduced to increase safety. Students should store their music supplies (music, folder, pencil) with their instrument or in their backpack.

Music and Music Folders

Students will be provided their own copy of music and should keep it in their personal music folder. Students will not share music.

Music Stands

Music stands will be used during instrumental music rehearsals. Students will not share music stands. At the end of each rehearsal, students will wipe their stand with a disinfectant wipe.

Regular Hand Washing

Students should regularly wash their hands with soap and water throughout the day.

Band Classroom Specific Information

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

D87 will provide certain PPE to band students. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of provided PPE.

- Bell Covers: All instruments, with the exception of flutes, will receive a cloth bell cover that must be affixed to the instrument at all times during rehearsal. Bell covers should be hand-washed on a regular basis and allowed to air dry.

- Masks: Students are required to wear a mask at all times during rehearsals. Students choosing to wear their own mask with a mouthpiece slit may do so, however, that mask should only be worn during band class. If a student needs a mask provided, D87 will have masks available that can be cut before rehearsal begins. Masks must cover the nose and mouth at all times during rehearsals. It is recommended that flutes use masks without a slit, sliding the mouthpiece behind the mask from the right.
- Brass Absorbent Pads: Brass players will be provided absorbent pads which will be placed on the floor during rehearsal to capture moisture from their water key. At the end of each rehearsal, the student will dispose of their absorbent pad in the trash.

Percussion Instruments

- Percussionists will use hand sanitizer before approaching their instrument.
- Disinfecting wipes will be used on all shared items (i.e. bass drum beaters, etc.) between uses.
- Percussion equipment, based on the recommendation of the PAS, will remain uncovered at all times to allow for instruments to be disinfected nightly by the maintenance staff. This will eliminate students touching instrument covers before and after rehearsals.
- Percussionists should not share their personal sticks/mallets or supplies.
- All school provided equipment and instruments will be disinfected by the last student to use it after each use.

Rehearsal Time

The recommendation by the University of Colorado study is that wind instrument rehearsals do not exceed 30 minutes of *continuous* playing before taking a break for air exchanges. Given the length of music class periods, setup, and rehearsal conclusion times, students will not exceed 30 minutes of *continuous* playing at a time. Any indoor rehearsal outside of the school day will also adhere to this procedure.

Choir Classroom Specific Information

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Choir students are required to wear a mask at all times during rehearsal. Students are encouraged to use a mask that fits them comfortably, covering their nose and mouth while singing. It is recommended that students have a dedicated mask for choir and one they wear the rest of the school day. This is due to the amount of inhale and exhale, along with moisture that will be captured in the mask while singing. Students needing a “spacer” behind their mask will be provided one for the school year. The “spacer” is not required for singing, but available for students who feel more comfortable having the mask away from their mouth.

Orchestra Classroom Specific Information

All orchestra classroom spaces will be treated as a regular classroom with expectations of appropriate mask wearing covering both the mouth and nose, social distancing, and disinfecting. Orchestra teachers will work with students using school owned instruments to ensure instruments and bows are properly disinfected and stored at the conclusion of each rehearsal. Students should not share rosin, bows, rock stops, or any other orchestra specific supply without proper disinfection between uses.