

Micah W. Socks
Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts

Guidelines for Performing Arts: 2021-2022 Updated August 18, 2021

Guiding Principles:

- The health and safety of WCPS students and staff will remain our top priority.
- Activities may be modified, delayed or cancelled based on what is in the best interest of our students, staff and other stakeholders

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Indoors:

- Well-fitting masks are required to be worn by all students and staff in the performing arts settings.
- Wind instrumental players should use bell covers and are required to wear masks with slits for their mouthpiece during rehearsal. Outside of rehearsal, regular masks which fully cover the nose and mouth should be worn. Non-wind players should wear regular masks at all times during rehearsal.
- Singers are required to wear masks at all times.
- Schools have additional face coverings available for students if needed.
- A minimum 3 ft. spacing between students will be used in all music settings.
- Teachers who need additional fabric to cover instrument bells or other PPE needs should contact Micah Socks.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Outdoors:

- PPE are recommended to be worn for outdoor rehearsals and performances when physical distancing is not possible.

Director and School Consideration for Rehearsals:

- Include these new procedures in communications with band students and families. Include required items for rehearsals and clear expectations for rehearsal procedures.
- Distribute and collect back the [WCPS COVID Pledge Form](#) from each participant in hard copy at the student's first rehearsal. This must be on file for students to participate.
- Review [WCPS Heat and Humidity Procedures for Athletics](#).
- Acquire from your school bottles of hand sanitizer and wipes to be available for each rehearsal area.

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- Water- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared. Consider asking boosters/band parents for donations of bottled water to have ready for students who may come without water.
 - Develop a plan for your rehearsal facility to establish paths to the rehearsal area and minimize potential contact. Establish which restrooms will be accessible. Small instrument storage rooms should be limited to a few students at a time. Students should bring any instruments/materials that can be easily transported with them to and from rehearsal.
 - Identify a shelter location for a thunderstorm/severe weather and ensure distancing can be achieved.
 - Work with school administration and the athletic director to align rehearsals to field availability. Please submit updated summer rehearsal schedules to the VPA Office.
 - Complete volunteer/kroll forms for band staff. Submit these to your school office who will forward to HR for processing.
 - Limit the number of physical surfaces that are required to be moved and handled. Limit or exclude the use of props, multiple instruments per student in the front ensemble, excess color guard equipment, etc. If required, each instrument and prop will be assigned to one individual and that individual is the only person that should move/assemble/play that instrument or prop.
 - Students should be spaced at a minimum 3 step interval (8 steps to 5 yards/22.5" step) for all drill and on field formations.
 - Please kindly ask that parents/guardians be mindful of our processes and procedures, and ask that they do not congregate near rehearsal areas at drop-off and pick-up. Parents should remain in or near their vehicles and practice social distancing.

Pre-Rehearsal/Entering Rehearsal

- All staff and students should self-assess for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to rehearsal.
- Accurate attendance records must be kept for each session by the WCPS teacher of record.
- Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in rehearsals and should be sent home immediately. Students should contact their primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- As students arrive, they should move to a designated rehearsal area that is distanced appropriately. Staff members should be present at the area.
- Process for entering and exiting the music facility should be communicated in advance.
- Instruments, equipment, and music stands should not be shared without proper cleaning and disinfecting, including drumsticks and color guard equipment.

COVID-19 Exposure

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- Once activities begin, if any participant/coach within a pod is identified as potentially having exposure to COVID-19 they may be asked to:
 - Not return to school;
 - Self-quarantine/self-monitor; and,
 - Seek a professional medical assessment.
- An isolation/quarantine period of up to 14 days and a release note from a medical professional may be required to return to school.
- If any participant/coach within a group is diagnosed with and/or receives a positive notice of COVID-19,
 - The participant/coach is to remain isolated at home until they submit a release note from a medical professional allowing his/her return to school.
 - An isolation/quarantine period of up to 14 days and a release note from a medical professional may be required to return to school.
- *WCPS cannot disclose the identities of individuals who test positive or are suspected of being positive for COVID19 because of privacy laws. WCPS will conduct contact tracing and collaborate with health officials as needed to gather names and contact information of individuals, including students, that may have been exposed to limit the risk of exposure to others.*