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Guidance for Summer Music Activities





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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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NEBRASKA STATE BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

The information provided in this and related documents does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. This is intended to be a guidance document to support and inform local school districts and school systems and all information included is for reference only. Because local school board policy and unique facts make dramatic differences in analyzing any situation, the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services advise each school district or school system to consult with the local school district or system attorney for specific legal advice regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school operations. Additionally, the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services encourage districts to consult their local health departments to ensure that the health and safety of all students and staff are prioritized while working to provide a high-quality education to all students. The document contains links to other resources and sites and are provided for convenience only. The links do not constitute an endorsement. It is likely that evolving circumstances will necessitate changes to this document and local plans. While this guide is not comprehensive to all needs nor static in nature, it is intended to capture the most important components necessary for school planning as of the date of release.

Summer Music Activities

Refer to [Directed Health Measure](#)

Purpose

This guidance was created by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), the Nebraska Music Education Association, the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and local public health districts as a resource for school administrators to determine when and how accredited schools may begin to safely engage in school music offerings this summer.

This guidance is a fluid document that will be updated as information becomes available from the governor's office, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, and the [NFHS/CBDNA](#) research study. It must be used in conjunction with all proclamations issued by the governor and guidance provided by the local public health departments. Additional guidance for activities will be developed to help schools transition safely to the fall. Any local policies established should always be done in compliance with local public health officials.

General Guidance for All Music Activity

Communication and Planning

- Teachers and instructors are encouraged to include information about behaviors that help reduce the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with students and parents (e.g. mail, websites, email, phone, texts).
- Post signage prominently indicating attendance or participation is prohibited if individuals currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
- Post signage in highly visible locations (e.g., entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures, such as physical distancing, hand washing, and reducing the spread of germs.
- Consider sending a letter to all families regarding mandatory COVID-19 procedures prior to activities. Be clear and specific on all COVID-19 procedures that will be implemented.
- Accommodations for all populations and students with special needs should be part of all planning and delivery.
- Social emotional learning considerations should be part of all planning and delivery.

Planning and Preparation

- Students must practice physical distancing. Instructors should encourage students to learn the music while maintaining a minimum of six-foot intervals. If teachers need to move within the six-foot area to facilitate instruction, they should do so briefly and then promptly resume physical distancing.
- Schedule lessons/rehearsals so that there is a time gap between students to reduce the number of persons in the area at any one time.
- Students should not share sheet music, folders, or equipment/supplies.
- Students should not store personal music, instruments, or supplies at school/activity area. School-owned equipment may be stored at the school.
- Consider electronic delivery of music if possible.
- Limit the items that students bring with them (e.g., music, instrument, individual water bottle).
- Teachers, instructors, and students should wash hands regularly and/or utilize hand sanitizer. Special attention should be given to hand washing/sanitizing anytime a surface is touched. Teachers should frequently remind students to keep hands away from faces.
- Establish a set schedule to sanitize all areas where people have been during the time the area was open (e.g., instruments, tables, chair arms, door knobs, light switches, hangers or anywhere else where people come in contact). Clean surfaces with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfecting. To disinfect, use products that meet criteria (e.g., CDV, EPA) to use against COVID-19. For more information, see [CDC guidelines on disinfecting](#).

Pre-Screening and Other Health Considerations Before Activity

- Parents or guardians should conduct a symptoms survey for their child at home, including a temperature check, before each session. Schools can choose to check temperatures of students if feasible.
- Anyone with a temperature of 100.4F or above or other signs of illness shall not be allowed to participate.
- Have a plan in place if someone is or becomes sick with COVID or COVID-like symptoms. Students (through consultation with their parents) should be referred to personal health care providers, and public health officials should be notified.
- A list of all participating individuals should be kept for each activity so contact tracing by the local health department can be facilitated.
- Maintain confidentiality in the reports of any staff or student COVID-19 illness. Contact your local public health agency directly to report COVID-19 exposure. Consult the following form for more information: [FERPA and Coronavirus](#).
- Instructors and teachers must encourage students to wash rehearsal clothing immediately upon returning home.
- Participants that are in any high-risk category should check with personal health care providers to determine if group activities are safe/advisable.

Safety Procedures During Activity

- If multiple entrances/exits exist, use controlled access so students are not entering and exiting through the same door.
- No congregating in common areas for pickup and dropoff.
- Students should be encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should also be available on site at no cost to students.
- Teachers and instructors should work in small group settings whenever possible.
- Students should not share instruments, supplies, or equipment (including drumsticks, mallets, color guard equipment) without proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- Teachers should reference the [NFHS Instrument Cleaning Guidelines](#) and [CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](#) and encourage students to regularly disinfect instruments and equipment per the guidance.
- Limited car-pooling to or from activities is preferred. Parents, if transporting their students to rehearsals, must remain in vehicles or drop off and pick up students before and after rehearsal.
- Facemasks or cloth face coverings should be encouraged to the extent feasible.

Summer Marching Band

Summer marching band activities may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in programming dates. The following mitigation efforts are strongly encouraged to ensure student, teacher, and family safety.

- Rehearsals should take place outdoors when possible. Teachers need to have a communication plan to students/parents for inclement weather preventing outdoor rehearsals.
- Indoor rehearsals should be limited to small groups or sectionals that allow for mandated physical distancing. Inside or outside, each student should have individual space (4' x 3' square) designated for cases, equipment, etc. (not to be in contact with other students or equipment). Students should be encouraged to use the center of that space and then move outward as needed.
- If multiple entrances/exits exist, use controlled access so students are not entering and exiting through the same door.
- No congregating in common areas for pickup and dropoff.
- Teachers and instructors must create a plan for getting instruments from the band room to the practice facility that allows for physical distancing and recommended sanitation guidelines.
- Additional guidance will be forthcoming regarding putting marching drill to music once the NFHS/CBDNA aerosol research study results are published.
- Teachers and instructors are responsible for ensuring students maintain physical distancing as much as possible. This means that students should be spaced at a minimum of three step intervals (22.5" per step) for all drill and on-field formations.

- Students should not store personal music, instruments, or supplies at school/activity area. School-owned equipment may be stored at the school.
- Consider electronic delivery of music if possible.
- Students must supply individual water to consume during and after activities. Shared hydration stations (e.g., water cows, water trough, water fountains, large beverage jugs) should not be utilized.
- Parent groups/booster groups are not allowed to provide food for students. Students may bring food from home, or the school may provide food utilizing the school kitchen and staff per health department guidelines.

Beginning Instrumental Music Program Demonstrations/Selection

Summer beginning instrumental demonstration/selection activities may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in programming dates. The following mitigation efforts are strongly encouraged to ensure student, teacher, and family safety. Please refer to updated documents for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

- If multiple entrances/exits exist, use controlled access so students are not entering and exiting through the same door.
- No congregating in common areas for pickup and dropoff.
- Instruments, mouthpieces, cases must be properly cleaned and sanitized between each use. NFHS/CDC Instrument Cleaning Guidelines should be referenced for proper disinfection protocol (see resources).
- Consider a waiting area until notified that the teacher is ready to begin the lesson. If a waiting area is used, remove objects which may be difficult to disinfect.
- Students must practice physical distancing. Instructors should encourage students to participate while maintaining six-foot intervals. If teachers need to move within the six-foot area to facilitate instruction, they should do so briefly and then promptly resume physical distancing.
- Teachers are encouraged to have an online pre-screening of student interest (e.g., <https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/>) to assist in determining student interest and limit scope of in-person instrument handling.
- Teachers should use wind instrument trial kits rather than actual instruments when conducting instrument demonstrations and tryouts for potential students. After each tryout, teachers should instruct the student to place the mouthpiece in a tub of hot soapy water. The mouthpiece is removed from the water and dried, sprayed/wiped with alcohol disinfectant, and allowed to air dry. Cases should be wiped down after each contact.

- Schools should conduct tryouts outdoors to the extent possible. If outdoor tryouts are not possible, the school should implement a schedule for tryouts, using 30-60 minute blocks of time, with up to twelve students per sixty minute block (one every 5 minutes) per classroom. If a larger space is utilized, multiple stations may be set up as long as each station is separated from the other stations by a distance ranging from 20-30 feet. The schedule should allow for 20-minute intervals between sessions to allow air to circulate before beginning the next session. If possible, staff should open windows and use fans to circulate the air.
- Schools should require adults to maintain a ten-foot distance to observe. A maximum of two adults per student is recommended. Siblings are not allowed to attend. After the demonstration, the student should walk to the seating area and exit with family.

Show Choir Choreography Camp

Summer Show Choir Choreography camps/rehearsals may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in programming dates. The following mitigation efforts are strongly encouraged to ensure student, teacher, and family safety. Please refer to updated documents for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

- Indoor rehearsals should be limited to small groups or sectionals that allow for safe physical distancing. Choreography activities are encouraged to be outside, weather permitting.
- If multiple entrances/exits exist, use controlled access so students are not entering and exiting through the same door.
- No congregating in common areas for pickup and dropoff.
- Teachers and instructors should work in small group settings whenever possible.
- Risers and chairs must be spaced to maintain physical distancing.
- Students must practice physical distancing. Instructors should encourage students to learn the music while maintaining a minimum of six-foot intervals. If teachers need to move within the six-foot area to facilitate instruction, they should do so briefly and then promptly resume physical distancing.
- Students must maintain physical distancing while singing or participating in choreography, both on and off risers.
- Consider stretching or “warm-ups” without exaggerated exhalation.
- Additional guidance will be forthcoming regarding putting choreography to the vocals once the NFHS/CBDNA aerosol research study results are published.
- Students should not share music, costumes, instruments, props, and equipment without proper cleaning and disinfection.
- Students should not store personal music and supplies at school/activity area. School-owned equipment may be stored at the school.
- Consider electronic delivery of music, including electronic projection of music.
- Students must supply individual water to consume during and after activities. Shared hydration stations (e.g., water cows, water trough, water fountains, large beverage jugs) should not be utilized.

- Parent groups/booster groups are not allowed to provide food for students. Students may bring food from home, or the school may provide food utilizing the school kitchen and staff per health department guidelines.
- Inside or outside, each student should have individual space (4' x 3' square) designated for personal belongings, equipment, etc. (not to be in contact with other students or equipment). Students should be encouraged to use the center of that space and then move outward as needed.
- Teachers must encourage students to shower and wash rehearsal clothing immediately upon returning home.
- Participants that are in any high-risk category should check with personal health care providers to determine if group activities are safe/advisable.
- Considerations for scheduling include alternating/rotating face-to-face instruction in small groups with combined rehearsal in a space (auditorium, student center, etc.) large enough to accommodate mandated physical distance between students. Possibilities may include:
 - » Students participate in class remotely with available technology.
 - » Students complete non-singing music learning activities without technology.
 - » Students meet in sectionals and rehearse with pre-recorded audio recording.
- Outdoor space that meets mandated student distance requirements for any rotation rehearsals and/or a combined rehearsal, as available.

Individual Music Lessons/Small Group Music Lessons/Color Guard Auditions/Drumline Auditions

Summer lessons and color guard/drumline auditions may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in programming date. The following mitigation efforts are strongly encouraged to ensure student, teacher, and family safety. Please refer to updated documents for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

- Individual lessons, small group lessons, color guard auditions and drumline auditions may take place indoors or outdoors.
- Consider a waiting area until notified that the teacher is ready to begin the lesson. If a waiting area is used, remove objects which may be difficult to disinfect.
- Teachers should follow current directed health measures for physical distancing to determine the limitations for the maximum number of students allowed in a room at the same time.
- Students must practice physical distancing. When teaching music, instructors should encourage students to learn the music while maintaining a minimum of six-foot intervals. If teachers need to move within the six-foot area to facilitate instruction, they should do so briefly and then promptly resume physical distancing.
- Students should not share instruments and equipment (e.g., drumsticks, mallets, color guard equipment, music stands, pencils) without proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- Refer to NFHS/CDC Instrument Cleaning Guidelines and encourage students to regularly disinfect instruments.

Additional Resources:

- COVID-19 Instrument Cleaning Guidelines (recommended by NFHS, NAMM, NAFME) <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>
- Student Privacy Policy Office/Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA COVID-19)
 - » English version: <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/ferpa-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
 - » Spanish Version: <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/ferpa-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-spanish>
- Nebraska State Bandmasters Association [nsbma.org COVID-19 resources](https://www.nsbma.org/COVID-19-resources)
- Music Teachers National Association https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/COVID19_Resources.aspx
- American Choral Directors Association <https://acda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACDA-COVID-19-Committee-Report.pdf>
- National Association of Teachers of Singing https://www.nats.org/cgi/page.cgi/_article.html/Featured_Stories/_NATS_COVID_Resources_Page
- Centers for Disease Control Cleaning and Disinfecting <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- Centers for Disease Control Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes
 - » English <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
 - » Espanol <https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
 - » Chinese (simplified) <https://chinese.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
 - » Vietnamese <https://vietnamese.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
 - » Other languages <https://www.cdc.gov/pubs/other-languages?Sort=Lang%3A%3Aasc>
- National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)/National Association for Music Education (NAFME) Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812371/nafme_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-review-june-19-2020-final.pdf
- Guidance for Return to High School Marching Band (NFHS) <https://bit.ly/37dwBuC>
- Additional NFHS Performing Arts COVID-19 Resources <https://bit.ly/3gZSPVg>

Student privacy guidelines must be followed regardless of mode of instruction (see Student Privacy/ FERPA resource). While some current platforms for possible use in digital instruction are listed here, equity and accommodations for all students must be considered in technology selection and use (e.g., availability, privacy, cost, camera, sound, chat/mute features.). https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions_0.pdf:

- Zoom for Education <https://zoom.us/education>
- WebEx <https://www.webex.com/>
- Microsoft Teams <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>
- FaceTime (check for supported devices/availability) <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/facetime/id1110145091>
- Google Hangout <https://hangouts.google.com/>
- FlipGrid <https://info.flipgrid.com/>
- Nearpod <https://nearpod.com/>
- Socrative <https://socrative.com/>
- EdPuzzle <https://edpuzzle.com/>
- Plickers <https://get.plickers.com/>
- PollEverywhere <https://get.plickers.com/>
- Spire <https://www.izotope.com/>
- Vocaroo <https://www.vocaroo.com>



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