This guidance document is advisory in nature but binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document. For comments regarding these documents contact nde.guidance@nebraska.gov.
Fine Arts Guidance

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living. As Nebraska schools begin the complicated transition into the 2020-2021 school year, it is critical to address considerations for student and attendance. This guidance should be used to complement the leveled guidance Planning a Safe Return to School in Nebraska. This document addresses the content areas covered by the Nebraska Fine Arts Standards (2014): Media Arts, Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Theatre.

Foundational Values:

- **Equity** - We must ensure our students, especially those who have been historically underserved, maintain access to high quality teaching.
- **Quality** - While flexibility and innovation must be pursued, we must not back down from our standards for quality.
- **Flexibility** - We must pursue flexibilities in regulations and innovations to ensure students have access to high quality teaching.
- **Safety** - Learning cannot occur if the school community does not feel safe in their environment.
- **Decisive** - Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will make mistakes, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.

This guidance is a fluid document that may be updated as information becomes available from the governor’s office, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, and various research studies from national professional arts education organizations.

Acknowledgements

Some information included here was informed by an international study initiated by professional arts education organizations to assess risk and present guidance for open areas and confined spaces such as rehearsal areas, classrooms, and performance settings specifically related to COVID-19. This guidance has helped develop better understanding and safer implementation of educational activities. More specific information is included in the Health and Safety Resources section of this document.
Communication and Planning for All Fine Arts Content Areas

Across all risk levels (Green, Yellow/Orange, Red), parents and students must be made aware of safety precautions in place.

- Schools 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 signs 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 previous 14 days.
- Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures such as physical distance, hand washing, keeping hands away from faces, and reducing the spread of germs.
- Send communications to all families regarding mandatory COVID-19 procedures prior to activities. Be clear and specific on all COVID-19 procedures that will be implemented.
- Provide accommodations for all populations and students with special needs in all planning and delivery (Accessibility for your Virtual Events for People With Disabilities).
- Include Social Emotional Learning considerations in all planning and delivery.
- Participants that are in any high-risk category should check with personal health care providers to determine if group activities are safe/advisable.

General Fine Arts Guidance:

For in-person activities, the following general guidelines apply to all fine arts activities, regardless of type (e.g., audition, tryout, demonstration, selection, performance) or content area. Please note while some guidelines may seem specific to certain content areas, and even to specific instruments, this information may be used to increase health/safety in a variety of situations.

**Green Risk Level (Low Spread)**

- Changes to class sizes and spacing not required; resume normal seating.
- Participants that are in any high-risk category should check with personal health care providers to determine if group activities are safe/advisable.
- Face coverings are recommended, but not required for staff or students.
  - CDC recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) when feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distance is difficult. Schools may choose to recommend face coverings.
  - Face coverings should be sized to cover the nose and mouth.
  - Annual school health screenings make it difficult to maintain use of face coverings. Schools should consider having students who are able to wear face coverings do so during the brief time needed for screening.
**Yellow/Orange Risk Level (Moderate/High Spread)**

- Participants that are in any high-risk category should check with personal health care providers to determine if group activities are safe/advisable.

- Face coverings (e.g., cloth or surgical style) that cover the mouth and nose are required for everyone. Wind instrumentalists should use a mask with a mouthpiece slit (plastic face shields do not prevent aerosol from being inhaled or released).

- Each person must maintain physical distance (6’ x 6’ general need, 9’ x 6’ for trombones) from others.

- Staff should move within the six-foot area only as necessary to facilitate instruction.

- Outdoor activity with physical distance is recommended when possible, with communication plans prepared for necessary changes.

- Indoor activity and time between activity should be limited to group sizes that allow for physical distance.

- Indoor activities should be limited to 30 minutes, followed by clearing the room for 20 minutes to allow HVAC systems (with HEPA filters) to exchange air.

- Plexiglass partitions between people hamper HVAC air exchange and are not recommended.

- Reduce emissions by using a portable amplifier to keep voices at lower volumes.

- Space risers, seating, supplies, music stands, and equipment to maintain physical distance.

- Control entrance/exit access to maximize safety and lessen exposure.

- Prohibit congregating in common areas or pick-up/drop-off areas.

- Create a plan that maintains physical distance and proper cleaning/sanitation for moving people, *instruments*, supplies, sets, etc. to/from activity areas.

- Students should not store personal items, music, instruments, or supplies at school/activity area. School-owned equipment may be stored at the school.

- Maximize use of washable clothing/minimize uniforms or costumes that require dry cleaning.

- Maximize electronic delivery of instructional materials, music, scripts, etc.

- Shared hydration stations (e.g., water cows, water trough, fountains, beverage jugs) should not be used. Students may supply personal water containers.

- 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.

- Do not share items (e.g., music, folders, equipment, supplies, instruments, art supplies, scripts, costumes, props, rhythm instruments, bean bags) without recommended cleaning and disinfecting. Makeup (including theatrical makeup) should never be shared.

- Establish schedules and procedures to properly clean and sanitize areas (e.g., equipment, props, sets, instruments, tables, desks, seating, door knobs, light switches, clothes hangers).
• Encourage students to properly clean and disinfect items at home.
• Encourage students to shower and wash clothing immediately upon returning home.
• Consider activities, stretching, “warm-ups” to reduce forceful exhalation.
• Wind instruments should use bell covers (e.g., made of pantyhose, 80 denier, 2 layers) or key covers/instrument bags.
• Flutists can put the flute head joint between the mouth and mask (as seen in this video) attached to the flute foot joint.
• Empty music instrument spit valves/tuning slides onto disposable cloth/pad.
• Use wind instrument trial kits rather than actual instruments at instrument demonstrations/tryouts.
  » Parents/guardians (maximum of two) should maintain a ten-foot distance to observe. Siblings are discouraged from attending instrument demonstration or tryout situations.
  » After each use, clean and disinfect the instrument mouthpiece and wipe down the instrument and case following guidelines for the specific instrument.

**Red (Severe/Significant Spread)**
• Schools are closed for in-person instruction.
• All activities and extracurriculars cease.
Content Area Resources

These resources are helpful and relevant across all risk levels and for in-person learning, remote learning, and blended learning. They may be especially helpful when facilitating learning in the “Red” risk level. While some resources here are listed according to specific areas, please use any that are helpful for your students and your situation. At all times, across all content areas, follow student privacy guidelines.

All Content Areas

- Resources to Help Ensure Accessibility For Your Virtual Events for People With Disabilities https://www.arts.gov/accessibility/accessibility-resources/resources-to-help-ensure-accessibility-for-your-virtual-events-for-people-with-disabilities
- Tools and Resources for Traditionally Underserved Youth and English Language Learners https://www.aypf.org/resource/covid-19-response/
- National Fine Arts Learning Resources https://www.seadae.org/arts-instructional-resources
- Grant Funding for Virtual Artists-in-Schools and Communities (No cash match required, first come-first served) https://www.artscouncil.nebraska.gov/grants/grant-categories/virtual-aisc.html
- PK-12 Spanish Lessons and Media for all Content Areas https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/media-in-spanish/
- Nebraska OER https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/nebraska
- Library of Congress Teachers https://www.loc.gov/teachers/
- Library of Congress Engage at home and school https://www.loc.gov/engage
- Library of Congress Free to Use and Reuse https://www.loc.gov/search/?q=free+to+use+and+reuse&sp=&new=true
- ArtsEdge Kennedy Center (search grade band, subject/s) https://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/lessons
- Smithsonian Institution Resources https://learninglab.si.edu/help
- Smithsonian Institution Fine Arts Spanish Language Lesson PK-12 https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ou2LolunvkNU6CC26mSfnqJtoIMuL3EOiULi9Z5L2bU/edit#gid=2115262545 https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/
- Getty Center Free K-12 Resources https://www.getty.edu/resources/
Media Arts

- PBS Learning Media for Early Childhood [https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663)
- Nebraska Memories [http://memories.nebraska.gov/](http://memories.nebraska.gov/)
- Nebraska Educational Technology Association [https://netasite.org/?page_id=6765](https://netasite.org/?page_id=6765)
- Digital and Distance Resources [https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/](https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/)
- National Gallery of Art
  - Teachers [https://www.nga.gov/education/teachers.html](https://www.nga.gov/education/teachers.html)
  - NGA Kids [https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html](https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html)
  - Teens [https://www.nga.gov/education/teens.html](https://www.nga.gov/education/teens.html)
  - Families [https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html](https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html)
- Getty Center Free K-12 Resources [https://www.getty.edu/resources/](https://www.getty.edu/resources/)
- Other Media Arts resources [https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/](https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/)

Visual Arts

- Joslyn Art Museum [https://www.joslyn.org/education/](https://www.joslyn.org/education/)
  - Distance Learning [https://www.joslyn.org/education/teachers/distance-learning/](https://www.joslyn.org/education/teachers/distance-learning/)
- Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) [https://mona.unk.edu/mona/education-events/schools-educators/](https://mona.unk.edu/mona/education-events/schools-educators/)
  - MONA Online Virtual Artist Studio Tours [https://mona.unk.edu/mona/mona-visits-virtual-artist-studio-tours/](https://mona.unk.edu/mona/mona-visits-virtual-artist-studio-tours/)
- Nebraska ARTIST Teacher Resources [http://nebraskaartists.org/standards02.html](http://nebraskaartists.org/standards02.html)
- International Quilt Museum (UNL) [https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/](https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/)
  - At-home Learning [https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/home-learning](https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/home-learning)
- PBS Learning Media for Early Childhood [https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663)
» Elementary https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/articles/630-elementary-division-remote-learning

» Middle School https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/articles/624-middle-level-division-remote-learning

» Secondary https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/articles/625-secondary-division-remote-learning


• National Gallery of Art

  » Teachers https://www.nga.gov/education/teachers.html

  » NGA Kids https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html

  » NGA ArtZone for iPads https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ngakids-art-zone/id904766241?ls=1

  » Teens https://www.nga.gov/education/teens.html

  » Families https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html

  » Families https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html

• Getty Center Free K-12 Resources https://www.getty.edu/resources/

• Other Visual Arts resources https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/

Dance

• PBS Learning Media for Early Childhood https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663

• National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)

  » COVID-19 Resources www.ndeo.org/covid19online


• Dance Studies Association Resources for Moving Dance-Based Pedagogy Online https://dancestudiesassociation.org/news/2020/resources-for-moving-dance-based-pedagogy-online?fbclid=IwAR1Rj5ESwUHGbpawL5En7MMN3tHFV8suknD2cd34bWQuYLr84uT-FeHT_wY

• International Association of Blacks in Dance https://www.iabdassociation.org/page/covid19

• Other Dance resources https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/
Music

- NAfME Virtual Learning Resources for Music Educators [https://nafme.org/my-classroom/virtual-learning-resources-for-music-educators/]
- PBS Learning Media for Early Childhood [https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663]
- PBS Learning Media for Music [https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/the-arts/music/]
- Music For All [https://education.musicforall.org/]
- Save the Music Teacher Resources [https://www.savethemusic.org/grants/teacher-resources/]
- Teach Rock [https://teachrock.org/]
- Other Music resources [https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/]

Theatre

- PBS Learning Media for Early Childhood [https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/grades/early-elementary/?selected_facet=subject:2663]
- PBS Drama Toolkit Collection [https://www.ket.org/education/collections/drama-toolkit/]
- PBS Learning Media Theater [https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/the-arts/theater/#.Xm_cM6hKiUk]
- Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) Resources for Creating Online Learning [https://learn.schooltheatre.org/resources-for-creating-online-learning?fbclid=IwAR3hRhXX1DRNtLGicOyMsF1LZqYYVQQh9shiYOVVawe72CgkKe2okCkIcS8]
- EDTA [https://www.facebook.com/notes/inciteinsight/resources-for-theatre-educators-teaching-online/the-latest/224300158956439/]
- Other Theatre resources [https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/]
**Fine Arts Parents/Caregivers**

- Zero to Three (Early Childhood) [https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/featured-resources#for-parents](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/featured-resources#for-parents)
  - [https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#desarrollo-infantil-y-bienestar](https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#desarrollo-infantil-y-bienestar)
  - [https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#aprendizaje-temprano](https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#aprendizaje-temprano)
  - [https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#ser-padres](https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#ser-padres)
  - [https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#quienes-somos](https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol#quienes-somos)

- Library of Congress Family Engagement and ACTIVITY KITS [https://loc.gov/families/?loclr=blogfam](https://loc.gov/families/?loclr=blogfam)


- Other At-home resources [https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/](https://www.aep-arts.org/resources/covid-19-resources/)

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**Professional Organization Guidance Documents**

**Media Arts**

- National Art Education Association [https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/remote-learning-toolkit](https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/remote-learning-toolkit)

**Visual Arts**

- National Art Education Association [https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/remote-learning-toolkit](https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/remote-learning-toolkit)

**Dance**


**Music**


**Theatre**

- Educational Theatre Association, Recommendation for Reopening School Theatre Programs [https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTtw2FWro1JLiL_EdTA_ReOpen_Guide_2020_FINAL.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTtw2FWro1JLiL_EdTA_ReOpen_Guide_2020_FINAL.pdf)
Health/Safety Resources


Centers for Disease Control Cleaning and Disinfecting UPDATED 7-28-2020

» https://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/other-languages?Sort=Lang%3A%3Aasc

- Aerosol Transmission Risk-Assessment Tool (relative to rehearsal spaces) https://tinyurl.com/covid-estimator (scientific input values change as data is released)
- COVID-19 Instrument Cleaning Guidelines (specific to user safety and type of instrument (e.g., string instruments, woodwind, brass, percussion, plastics) https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812235/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines.pdf
- EPA Approved Disinfectants https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19
- EPA Safer Choice Standards Cleaning https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products
- EPA Safer Choice Standards Cleaning en Español https://espanol.epa.gov/saferchoice/busque-productos-que-cumplan-con-la-norma-safer-choice