



# IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATES

*Disclaimer: The purpose of this paper is to provide resources and information groups can use to help them develop a plan to keep their students safe as they design indoor programs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information contained in this document is not meant to substitute for medical recommendations, diagnosis, or treatment. Information is for informational purposes only. These considerations are meant help each individual group create their own set of risk mitigation protocols. The links provided at the end of this document should also be referred to as the information on COVID-19 continues to change rapidly.*

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR DESIGNING AN INDOOR PROGRAM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WGI expects all groups to follow the health guidelines of their local area during the production of their 2021 Virtual Season programs. The overall safety of all participants must be the absolute top priority for every group as they navigate this season.

Research your school districts/rehearsal facility, city, county, state and national public health recommendations and requirements to make sure your plans fit within those guidelines/restrictions. *Remember: You may need to adhere to stricter protocols than those to keep your group healthy and safe whenever appropriate.*

Using those guidelines, there are several items below to consider as you begin to rehearse and design your 2021 programs:

### DESIGN CHOICES

- Weight sharing /partnering/ physical contact with others is discouraged
- Ground work is discouraged
- Avoid sharing/exchanging equipment/sticks etc.
- Avoid/minimize having multiple people moving/touching props.
- Choreography should not include hands to face movements
- Students should be encouraged to wear face coverings at all times, including performances.
- Consider using bell covers/bags for wind instruments
- Social distancing should be observed as much as possible in staging

- Using small pods of performers as a staging tool is discouraged
- If performing outdoors is possible, you may want to consider doing so.

## DAILY (INCLUDING SHOW DAYS) SAFETY CHECKLIST

- All students and staff should be encouraged to stay home if they feel sick.
- Everyone should complete a daily health pre-screening asking questions for verification from staff and members that they are not feeling symptoms or have not been exposed -- see *monitoring form example* - <https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812337/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-returning-to-high-school-marching-band-activities.pdf>
- Temperature checks > than 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit, it is recommended the individual go home immediately to begin quarantine.
- Sanitize all equipment, floor coverings, and props

## REHEARSAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Keep in mind there are no space restrictions on the performance area, to help encourage maximum social distancing.
- If inside, open windows and doors to maximize air circulation.
- Discourage spectators
- Consider reducing the length of the rehearsals when possible.
- Maintain social distance during breaks
- Require each student to bring a personal water bottle. Hydration stations (water fountains, water cows, water trough, etc.) should not be utilized.
- Require each student to bring a personal towel or yoga mat to utilize in a full body stretch or warm up on the ground
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to all individuals.
- Shared musical playback equipment (speakers/iPods/cd players) should be wiped down thoroughly before and after an individual's use of equipment.
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to shower and wash their rehearsal clothing immediately upon returning to home.
- Consider eliminating any overnight situations. If necessary, make sure adequate social distancing is possible.

- Communal sleeping spaces are not recommended.
- No shared food or “buffet” type settings.
- Social distancing should be observed when music or choreography is being taught. Students should learn the music or choreography standing still, spaced at a minimum of 10-foot intervals. When actively rehearsing, students and staff should maintain at least ten feet of distance from all sides when possible. If teachers need to move closer to correct a student’s body position, embouchure, posture, etc. they should do so briefly and then move back away.

## REFERENCES

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