



Below are the key takeaways of guidance and studies as they pertain to music instruction in schools. Please be advised that these have been selected and shared here with IDPH/CDC guidance in mind, but have not been vetted by these agencies. Please use these as you work with administration for return to music instruction and continue to follow guidelines from state agencies and your school district or institution.

Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education and Centers for Disease Control

Current as of August 2, 2021 | Key Takeaways

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) regardless of vaccination status. (Please stay apprised of state and local mandates specifically around masking as this particular piece is subject to change.)
- Recommended at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with universal indoor masking to reduce transmission risk. When distancing is not possible, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Avoid sharing instruments. If instruments must be shared (e.g., drums, mallet instruments, ukuleles), they should be cleaned and disinfected between students. Note that some instrument surfaces may be damaged by cleaning and disinfecting products, so contact your instrument dealer for guidance on disinfection, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning. Discourage the sharing of music stands so that students do not inadvertently move closer to each other to see the music.

International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study

July 2021 | Key Takeaways

- Outdoors remains the safest space; depending on local guidance and what activities are taking place outdoors, masking may still be a recommended mitigation but will likely not be required.
- Indoor environments vary greatly and educators will need to work with local school administration for best practices for the school
- Masking with appropriate material remains the best way of reducing potential infected aerosol from circulating in an indoor space. Masks are recommended be worn while singing and speaking.
- Bell covers made from appropriate material remain the best way of reducing potential infected aerosol from circulating in an indoor space while wind and brass instruments are played.
- In spaces with good ventilation rates and HEPA filtration, increased indoor rehearsal times of 50 minutes may be considered. A minimum of 3 air exchanges per hour should be used, if there are spaces with higher air change rates, you may consider longer rehearsal times.
- Physical Distancing may be decreased to 3 feet, adjusting farther or closer depending on local conditions.
- Continue good hygiene practice moving forward, including appropriate elimination of brass fluid.
- Face Shields and Partitions. Plastic face shields only stop large droplets, not aerosol; room dividers inhibit the function of the HVAC system and are not recommended.

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