

**International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study**  
**Updated Guidelines 8/12/21**

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As the United States continues the process of moving to the next phase of the pandemic, questions about music activity abound. Many questions still exist for the fall and the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Although the United States is reaching a higher level of vaccinated adults, the vaccination rates for those ages 12-17 remains low. Importance will need to be placed on local and state respiratory disease transmission rates for use of mitigations. Depending on developments with respect variants such as the Delta variant and other potential risk factor enhancements, these suggestions are meant to provide some best practices as we move into the next phase in the pandemic.

**Outdoors:** Outdoors remains the safest space

No mitigations needed depending on the level of local and state transmission rates.

**Indoors:** Indoor environments vary greatly

- **Masks.** 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.** Bell covers made from appropriate material\* remain the best way of reducing potential infected aerosol from circulating in an indoor space. Depending on your comfort level, instrumentalists can wear masks only when speaking and slitted performance masks are optional.

- **Rehearsal Times.** 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.** Distancing may be decreased to 3 feet, adjusting farther or closer depending on local conditions.

- **Hygiene.** 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.

Please refer to the Association for Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) guidance on ventilation during COVID-19: <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/resources> For more information on aerosol in performing arts activities please click here.

\*Material should consist of MERV13 material or ASTM F2100 (or similar) standard.

To access the most update to date information, please visit the main Aerosol Study page:

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>