



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Greene County**

# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

**PREFACE:** Ohio schools were closed beginning March 10, 2020 by order of the Governor and the Director of Ohio Department of Health due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) released guidelines for the reopening of schools for the 2020/2021 academic year in July. Since then, the ODH and Center for Disease Control (CDC) have issued updated guidance. This document is updated to reflect the most recent changes. It is recognized that we all have a role to play in creating a supportive, educational environment while simultaneously protecting the health of students, the student's family members, parents, teachers, support team members, visitors, etc. It is vital that everyone work together in a collaborative way to create policies and procedures that protect the integrity of the educational process and foster the overall health of everyone.

It is in this spirit that Greene County Public Health (GCPH) has created these general principles that each school district can consider as our community proceeds with the reopening of our schools throughout Greene County. *As changes occur at the state or local level, we will be sure to update this guidance as necessary.*

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ✓ Each school district should establish, prioritize, and implement safety protocols.
- ✓ Each school district and parochial schools should work closely with GCPH to promote safety within each school building.
- ✓ Each school district should be transparent with all of the stakeholders and acknowledge that some level of risk will be present when the children and all school district employees return to the school's facilities.
- ✓ Whenever and wherever possible, there needs to be consistency between school districts operationally, yet with the recognition that each school district and each building has unique qualities and characteristics that must also be assessed and managed. It is these unique attributes that will lead to some inconsistencies and those should be clearly communicated whenever possible to avoid misunderstandings and miscommunication.
- ✓ Each school should follow the *COVID-19 HEALTH AND PREVENTION GUIDANCE FOR OHIO K-12 SCHOOLS* and strategies contained within to the extent possible to reduce the risk of exposure and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their school facilities and surrounding communities. Each district should follow the overall guidance and best practices to every extent possible included within this document.

### SYMPTOM ASSESSMENT

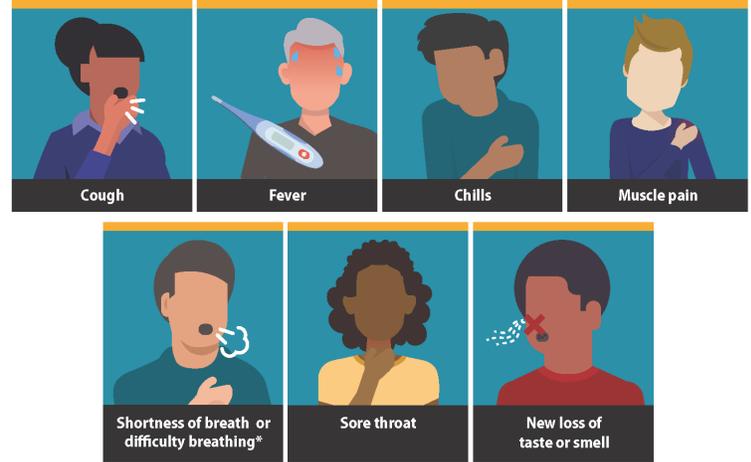
- It is essential that students, caregivers, teachers, associated staff, volunteers, authorized visitors, etc. conduct daily health checks *prior* to going to school. This should include taking temperatures and assessing symptoms. Visitors should have their temperatures taken and a symptom assessment completed (including e.g. - "Do you feel feverish?") prior to being permitted to enter the school building proper (e.g. – immediately upon entering the main entrance).



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

- **SECTION 1: SYMPTOMS**

Please check the child for these symptoms:

- Temperature 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth (99.4° F or higher if taken on forehead)
- Sore throat
- New** uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

- **SECTION 2: CLOSE CONTACT/ POTENTIAL EXPOSURE**

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes cumulative, not necessarily one continuous time period) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- Live in areas of high community transmission (red level 3 or purple level 4 via the Ohio Public Health Advisory System) while the school remains open.

- **RETURN TO SCHOOL POLICIES:**

- ⇒ If the student/parent/caregiver answers YES to any question in Section 1 but NO to any questions in Section 2, the student would be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (e.g., until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications).
- ⇒ If the student or parent or caregiver answers YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2, the student should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing.
- ⇒ Students diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2 without negative test results should stay home, isolate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.
- ⇒ Students diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any component of Section 1 AND YES to any component of Section 2 without negative test results should be permitted to return to school should be in line with current CDC recommendations. A negative test or doctor's note should **not** be required for return.
- ⇒ No fever (without using fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, **AND**,
- ⇒ Other symptoms are improving, **AND**,
- ⇒ Has been 10-days since the symptoms first appeared.
- ⇒ If **only** have a fever and **no** other symptoms, and have not had any contact with an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, the student/faculty may return to school **after** they are fever-free for 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medications.

- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner adopted by current school district policies.



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

- To return to school, the student must be transported to school by the parent and must be checked by the school nurse first.
- **SCHOOL ISOLATION PROTOCOLS:**  
Some students may develop symptoms of infectious illness while at school. Schools should take action to isolate students who develop these symptoms from other students and staff.
  - ⇒ Students with any of the symptoms in Section 1 should follow their school's current illness management policy to minimize transmission to others, to optimize learning opportunities, and to allow for these symptoms to resolve (at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications or in accordance with existing school illness policy). Students who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 while at school should be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students:
    - ◆ School staff (e.g., workers, teacher aides, school health staff) who interact with a student who becomes ill while at school should use [Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions](#) when caring for sick people.
    - ◆ Students who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick.
  - ⇒ Students identified at school who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 AND answer YES to any of the questions in Section 2 should be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students (e.g., a nurse's office) and then sent home or to a healthcare facility if symptoms indicate a need for further evaluation:
    - ◆ If a school needs to call an ambulance or bring a student to the hospital, they should first alert the healthcare staff that the student may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
    - ◆ After the student is placed in an isolation area, school staff who work in the isolation area should follow CDC's [Considerations for Cleaning and Disinfecting your Building or Facility](#).
    - ◆ **Note:** In developing plans for placing students with symptoms in an isolation area, schools should be mindful of appropriate safeguards to ensure that students are isolated in a non-threatening manner, within the line of sight of adults, and for very short periods of time.

### **POSITIVE COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS**

If a student, teacher, staff member, etc. is diagnosed with a positive COVID-19 test result, the following standard operating guidelines (SOG) must be followed:

- Positive Test Result (Individual has not been to school for at least 48 hours):
  - ⇒ The positive individual will stay home from school until fever free without the use of medication for 24 hours, **AND** other symptoms are improving, **AND** 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
  - ⇒ If the positive individual is asymptomatic the period of isolation starts from the test date and is 10 days in length.
  - ⇒ Contact tracing is not needed because they were not at school in the past 48 hours.
  - ⇒ **Please report the name, address, and phone number of the positive case to Ms. Dee Owsley MSN, RN, Communicable Disease Nurse at (937) 374-5638.**
- Positive Test Result – (Individual has been in school):
  - ⇒ The positive individual will stay home from school until fever free without the use of medication for 24 hours, **AND** other symptoms are improving, **AND** 10 days since symptoms first appeared.



- ⇒ If positive individual is asymptomatic the period of isolation starts from the test date and is 10 days in length.
- ⇒ Contact tracing is needed. Anyone that was within 6 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or more from 2 days prior to symptom onset will need to be placed in quarantine for 14 days (regardless of if they receive a negative test during this period).
- ⇒ **Please report the name, address, and phone number of the positive case and the contacts of the positive case to Ms. Dee Owsley MSN, RN, Communicable Disease Nurse at (937) 374-5638.** Ms. Owsley or another disease investigator will be in touch with the positive case and contact tracers will be in touch with the contacts of the positive case.

### **POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULT COMMUNICATION GUIDANCE**

Communication will be developed by GCPH when a student, teacher, staff member, etc. has been diagnosed with a COVID-19 positive case. A common template (see Appendix D for a sample letter) will be developed to include, at a minimum, the following:

- Specify to the parents that a child was potentially exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, provide information regarding the symptoms and signs to look for, seek medical care from their medical provider as necessary, and include any other pertinent information essential to the health and well-being of their child. Information relating to school building staff will be included in this letter if necessary, with emphasis also toward the health and well-being of all school employees.
- The school district will cooperate with GCPH in contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case of COVID-19.
- GCPH will write a letter for the school district to use and the letter will explain/define what is considered close contact to a COVID-19 case that will result in a quarantine.

### **POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULT PLAN**

Each school district needs to develop an individualized plan in the event that a positive COVID-19 case is identified or if a suspect case is identified. Schools should implement the following humane steps:

- Immediately isolate the individual if they are present in the school building. Send the ill teacher, staff member, etc. home; call the student's family member to pick up the sick child as quickly as possible. Schools need to plan now for a room or area where an individual can be isolated if they cannot immediately leave the premises. This process should be completed with compassion and dignity, and with some instruction to follow up with their healthcare provider if their symptoms worsen.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use standard transmission-based precautions when caring for sick individuals.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone with severe symptoms from COVID-19 to a healthcare facility in case of an emergency. If there is a need to call an ambulance or take someone to the hospital, try to call ahead to alert the hospital that said individual may have COVID-19.
- **Contact GCPH to report the case (Ms. Dee Owsley MSN, RN, Communicable Disease Nurse at (937) 374-5638).**
- Identify and close areas of the school building where the individual spent more than 30-minutes. Wait for at least 24 hours (or as long as possible) before the area can be disinfected with approved cleaners/sanitizers.



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

- Work with GCPH to determine if a school closure is warranted and for additional measures the school must take to contain the exposure.

### CLEANING/SANITIZING

GCPH strongly recommends that approved sanitizers and cleaners be used: [EPA sanitizers and cleaners effective against COVID-19](#). Schools must clean surfaces frequently, paying close attention to high touch areas and shared materials, and make sanitation wipes or disinfectants labeled for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) available in each room and common space. The sharing of supplies and materials should be minimized and if items must be shared, sanitized between each user.

### WATER SYSTEMS

To minimize the risk of [Legionnaire's disease](#) and other diseases associated with water, take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (e.g. - sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown. Drinking fountains should be cleaned / sanitized but is recommended you encourage staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains. The following are links for guidance reference documents:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/pws/flushing-home-plumbing-when-water-service-is-restored.pdf>

<https://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/pws/guidance-for-premise-plumbing-water-service-restoration.pdf>

### CLASSROOM OCCUPANCY

- Districts should inform and communicate with parents that safety protocols are in place, but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. Districts will strive to decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, sanitizing and safety-related procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.
- Classroom occupancy should be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible. Separation based on the *COVID-19 HEALTH AND PREVENTION GUIDANCE FOR OHIO K-12 SCHOOLS* should be followed whenever and wherever possible.
- Per Governor DeWine, face masks are **REQUIRED** for all students in grades K-12. If face shields are used, they should **always** be used in conjunction with a face mask.
- Exceptions for wearing face masks are for the following:
  - ⇒ Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance
  - ⇒ A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated by the use of a facial covering (e.g. severe anxiety or a tactile aversion)
  - ⇒ A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask.
  - ⇒ A child with a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction.





# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

- As with other businesses, all school staff and volunteers must wear face masks unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process. There are exceptions to this as listed in the Ohio guidance. School districts must develop a face mask policy for their district.
- Students within each classroom should be social distanced as far apart as can be reasonably accomplished. It would be ideal if all students face forward in the same direction to eliminate face-to-face interactions. GCPH also recommends assigning seats, and no sharing of school supplies and pooled supplies/resources. All students should have their crayons, scissors, manipulative learning aids, etc.

### FOOD SERVICE

All districts will offer food service. In addition to addressing social distancing issues, food security also plays an important role as plans and decisions are being developed. The logistical challenges of successfully feeding all students and school staff will likely vary between each school. GCPH recommends that the various factors be considered for creating a food service policy:

- No self-service buffets/salad bars, etc. will be permitted and the use of common utensils / shared condiments are prohibited.
- Consider creating separate and/or shortened lunch periods to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time. Cafeteria occupancy will be determined based on each school's unique circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Consider using assigned seating and avoid having students sit directly across from each other. Think about placing X's on dining table seats such that students sit diagonally from each other and maintain as much space between each student as reasonably possible (ideally 6-feet).
- Consider using other areas such as library, classrooms, auxiliary rooms, etc. for dining areas. It is strongly recommended that each student's food tray/plate/etc. be covered/protected during "travel" from the serving line to the student's dining location to prevent potential food cross-contamination issues.
- It is strongly recommended that all students/teachers/staff obtain their lunch via the cafeteria serving line prior to travelling to their dining destination (excluding those student/staff that bring their own lunch).
- Students should wash hands / apply hand sanitizer before and after eating.
- Clean / sanitize chairs and tables between seating each group of students for meals.
- Consider closing drinking fountains and encourage use of personal water bottles and touchless water bottle filling stations.

### VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS



Each school district should make decisions that are best for their unique school situations. In general, visitors should be discouraged from being in the school buildings. If visitors are permitted to be present within a school building, they must wear a face covering and safety protocols (e.g. – taking temperatures, monitoring health symptoms) should be implemented for all visitors, volunteers, etc.



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

### RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

GCPH believes the following activities should be temporarily restricted until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- See Appendix A (page 8) for updated information on **choral** instruction/performances
- See Appendix B (page 12) for updated information on **instrumental** instruction/performances
- See Appendix C (page 16) for updated information on **field trips**
- Recommend no school dances/assemblies
- Recommend that library items should be removed from circulation for 72 hours after the item has been returned

### RESOURCES:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Reset-Restart-Guide.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/parents-caregivers.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/10LOFLm-MojCJ\\_Ip-v0ZGgXbgvmceOMep0FSrV2IUks/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10LOFLm-MojCJ_Ip-v0ZGgXbgvmceOMep0FSrV2IUks/edit)  
(*Considerations for a Safe Return to the Instrumental Music Classroom*)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/decision-tool.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools-faqs.html>

<https://www.smores.com/pzf0m> (*Big 8 + Health & Safety Coalition / Ohio Guidelines for School Re-entry*)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/19jwLOJnpj8q\\_1rQyGYxmqUW5ocKMawO0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19jwLOJnpj8q_1rQyGYxmqUW5ocKMawO0/view)  
(*Guidance for Premise Plumbing Water Service Restoration*)

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2020/OHSAAReturnToPlayRecs.pdf>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/General-Non-Contact-Sports.pdf>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Contact-Sport-Practices-Non-Contact-Sport.pdf>





### APPENDIX A: School Guidance Regarding Choral Classes in K-12 Schools

This guidance is drafted in response to requests from schools wanting to resume choral activities. This document summarizes the Health District’s position for the resumption of choral singing. The recommendations noted in this guidance come from conducting extensive research from the following sources (reference the weblinks on page 11):

- *International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Round 2* and YouTube Video presentation of this study and discussion of findings/recommendations
- *Comparing the Respirable Aerosol Concentrations and Particle Size Distributions Generated by Singing, Speaking and Breathing*
- *Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education*
- Ohio Music Education Association and Risk Mitigation Strategies
- National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education
- K-12 School and Collegiate Band, Choir, Dance Teams and Other Similar Performance Activities – Responsible RestartOhio
- *Recommendations for Reopening School Theatre Programs: Theatre Education in the Time of COVID-19*



#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

##### **MASKS**

Masks **MUST** be worn by the students and teachers at all times. It is recommended that masks worn for singing be dedicated for that activity only, and a regular mask be worn for all other non-singing activities. The singing masks must be well-fitted, fully encompass the mouth, nose, and chin, result in a solid fit with no gaps, and must be a surgical-grade rated mask with an ASTM Level 3 rating. Incorporating face shields has been documented to provide little improved safety benefit – having a well-fit mask is absolutely essential. The use of versus non-use of face shields, in conjunction with wearing face coverings, will be left up to each individual teacher’s discretion.

##### **Key take-aways:**

- Students and teachers/directors wear masks at all times
- Separate mask for singing vs. mask to be worn the rest of the school day
- Well-fitted, surgical-grade, ASTM Level 3 rated mask covering mouth, nose, chin
- Face shield use is left to the teacher/director’s discretion

##### **SPACING**

The CDC (and other studies) recommend a **minimum** of a 6’ x 6’ spacing around each singer. Straight rows in music classrooms will allow for more space between students than the traditional arch shape (e.g. – on risers). Classroom capacity is difficult to pinpoint as each school building’s choral classroom/space varies. Capacity will be dependent upon adhering to the social distancing requirements. Schools should consider using larger facilities or spaces (e.g. – gyms, cafeteria, outside spaces) to allow social distancing and accommodate larger class sizes. Any space used should be measured and pre-set with marks on the floor where chairs/music stands, or standing in place, will be required for each student. To meet social distancing guidelines, large groups may need to be divided into smaller ensembles.



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

### Key take-aways:

- 6-foot distancing around each singer
- Social distancing applies indoors and outdoors
- Modifications can be made for larger groups (break into smaller ensembles)
- Consider using larger facilities or spaces (gym, cafeteria or outdoor space)
- Utilize pre-set marks on the floor/stage for each student

### TIME



Instructional / rehearsal times must not exceed 30 minutes. This applies to both inside and/or outside rehearsal space. Once this 30-minute time is up, the room needs to be promptly “emptied” to allow for sufficient dispersal of residually-generated aerosols and for air exchange to occur within that space (further discussed below).

### Key take-aways:

- 30-minute rehearsals
- Clear room for minimum one air change (3 air exchanges strongly recommended) before next rehearsal/class period

### ACCESS/HYGIENE

There must be a dedicated procedure as to how students enter and exit the choral classroom and accessing materials such as sheet music, music stands, etc. Students must use hand sanitizer upon entering the room, exiting the room, and masks must be worn at all times. Students must not share music, music stands, water bottles, etc. Music stands, chairs, etc. should be sanitized between classes.

### Key take-aways:

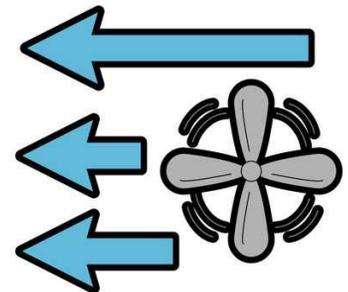
- Dedicate specific procedures for entrance/exit of classroom/rehearsal space
- No sharing of any materials/equipment
- Regular handwashing/use of hand sanitizer
- Masks at all times
- Sanitize high-touch areas/equipment/chairs/etc. between classes

### AIR FLOW/FILTRATION

A key factor is the air exchange rate for music rehearsal rooms/classrooms/theaters. Many studies state there must be a minimum of 1 air exchange rate between classes, however it is **highly recommended** there be a minimum of 3 air exchange rates. To determine this, each school will need to know what the HVAC system air exchange rate is for that specific space. If the HVAC system is insufficient or incapable of providing the proper air exchange rate in a reasonable amount of time between classes, consider additional ventilation options (e.g. - opening windows, using fans, using HEPA air cleaners, etc.). How many air cleaners may be needed depends on room size and how much square footage each air cleaner can properly clean. It is vital to know the CADR (Clean Air Delivery Rate) and the AHAM Certification (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers). When using air cleaners, it is also vitally important that the HEPA filters are changed out per the manufacturer’s recommendations. In general, the higher the air cleaning filter ratings, the better. Understand that older buildings may require a longer buffer time between sessions to allow for the air to refresh and to meet the air exchange requirement.

### Key take-aways:

- Outdoors is best
- Open windows if possible, or use fans, air cleaners





- Consider smaller ensembles/groups
- HEPA filtration, 3 air exchange rate goal

### TEACHING/PERFORMING MODIFICATIONS

The studies suggest that a modification in teaching and singing may likely be required. There should be no loud singing, yelling, talking etc. as this generates many more aerosols that are widely distributed upon exiting the person's mouth. Some of these are also tiny aerosols that emanate from deeper in the person's lungs which are more widely distributed and remain airborne for much longer periods of time. Therefore, singing and talking should be in a normal vocal range and singing should never be louder than a mezzo forte. Recommend no forte or fortissimo singing / vocalization. One study stated that based on available time, scheduling and space constraints, face to face music education may focus more heavily on the other musical processes – responding, creating and connecting-with. Students can continue to work on other musical performance skills at home.



The general consensus is that music education can and should be permitted to occur in all of the models/studies reviewed – but it must be done so in as safe a manner as possible. Students should also be permitted to opt out if they don't feel like choral singing is a safe activity during this current pandemic.

### PERFORMANCES

There are unique challenges to conducting in-person performances involving chorus, show choirs, orchestra, jazz band, theater, ballet, etc. during this pandemic. While this guidance document does provide recommendations for putting on performances, due to spacing limitations it simply may not be possible to produce in-person events. When it is not possible to mount in-person performances with students, it is strongly recommended that schools create virtual productions. Educators and artists around the country have demonstrated that it is possible to create and share inventive and engaging work virtually. Onstage performances must be produced safely with students working in all capacities – onstage, backstage, and front of the house. The goal is to create such performances with minimum risk and concern for everyone involved in putting on such performances and to those in attendance.

#### **Key take-aways:**

- Spectators must conduct daily symptom assessments before each performance
- Spectators must be seated a **minimum** of 12 feet (preferably more) from the performers
- The maximum number of individuals gathered in an indoor venue is the lesser of 15% of fixed seating capacity or 300 individuals
- Recommend a pre-marked pathway of entrance in and out of the theater
- Social distancing must be maintained throughout the venue. Seating must be arranged and assigned to allow for 6-feet in each direction between groups:
  - No more than 4 individuals, or
  - Members of 1 household (e.g. – parents/guardians and dependent children of a performer, director, staff, volunteer)
  - Family members must sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/ family groups
- Spectators must wear face coverings at all times (unless exempted)
- No congregating before/after performance is permitted
- Performers, staff, volunteers must not physically contact each other before or after performances. All volunteers must follow the same safety guidelines as all other school personnel and students
- Facilities must provide adequate space for social distancing for performers, directors, staff, volunteers. When actively performing, continue to maintain social distancing to the extent possible (more than 6-feet is recommended) to reduce the risk of airborne transmission of the coronavirus
- Provide hand sanitizer in the lobby and restrooms



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

- Sanitize all public areas prior to and after a performance – seats, rails, restrooms, back of house and other high-touch surfaces using EPA-approved disinfectants
- Sanitize all set pieces, props, equipment, instruments, microphones, headsets, control booth surfaces, etc. before and after a performance
- Masks must be worn at all times backstage and onstage during performances when at all possible (reference masks above in this document).

### ***Links to the studies/research used in developing this guidance:***

- <https://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/music/>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/media/4030003/aerosol-study-prelim-results-round-2-final.pdf>
- [https://chemrxiv.org/articles/preprint/Comparing\\_the\\_Respirable\\_Aerosol\\_Concentrations\\_and\\_Particle\\_Size\\_Distributions\\_Generated\\_by\\_Singing\\_Speaking\\_and\\_Breathing/12789221](https://chemrxiv.org/articles/preprint/Comparing_the_Respirable_Aerosol_Concentrations_and_Particle_Size_Distributions_Generated_by_Singing_Speaking_and_Breathing/12789221)
- [https://www.nfhs.org/media/4119375/nafme\\_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-august-18-2020-updated-version.pdf](https://www.nfhs.org/media/4119375/nafme_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-august-18-2020-updated-version.pdf)
- <https://www.omea-ohio.org/>
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Collegiate-Band-Choir-Dance.pdf>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/aerosol-study-faq-s-blog/>
- [https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTw2FWro1JLiL\\_EdTA\\_ReOpen\\_Guide\\_2020\\_FINAL.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTw2FWro1JLiL_EdTA_ReOpen_Guide_2020_FINAL.pdf)



### **APPENDIX B: School Guidance Regarding Instrumental Music Activities in K-12 Schools**

This guidance is drafted in response to requests from schools wanting to resume instrumental activities. This document summarizes the Health District's position for the resumption of orchestra, jazz band, etc. The recommendations noted in this guidance come from conducting extensive research from the following sources (reference the weblinks on page 15):



- *International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Round 2* and YouTube Video presentation of this study and discussion of findings/recommendations
- *Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education*
- Ohio Music Education Association and Risk Mitigation Strategies
- National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education
- K-12 School and Collegiate Band, Choir, Dance Teams and Other Similar Performance Activities – Responsible RestartOhio
- FAQ from the NFHS website
- *Recommendations for Reopening School Theatre Programs: Theatre Education in the Time of COVID-19*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

##### **MASKS**

Well-fitting masks must be worn by all students and staff in the music classroom. Masks must be well-fitted, fully encompass the mouth, nose, chin areas, be a solid fit with no gaps, and should be a surgical-grade rated mask. The type of mask worn is also an imperative key to providing the maximum protection for instrumentalists. Wind instrument players (woodwinds/brass) should/(must) wear masks while playing which includes a small straight slit in a surgical style mask for their mouth. This wind instrumental mask cannot and should not be used outside of rehearsal. After rehearsal, the regular mask for walking around the school building(s) must be worn.

Wind and brass instrument players must use bell covers that are well-fitting and lined with a MERV 13 rated material. Another resource says to use 2 layers or more of DENSE FABRIC and suggests a non-stretchy material. Another study recommends that any material (e.g. – polyester, spandex) can be used as long as there is a MERV 13 rated filter material lining the bell cover. Bell covers must be utilized for recorders as well.

##### ***Key take-aways:***

- Students and teachers ALWAYS wear masks
- Instrument covers, masks with slits
- Well fitted, multi-layer is best

##### **SPIT VALVES**

Something needs to be used to mitigate the collection and dispersion of the spit valve discharge. The recommendation for a disposable material is primarily for indoor emptying (e.g. – puppy pads). In both indoor and outdoor environments, the emptying of the water keys should be done away from others to prevent/minimize aerosol dispersion.

##### ***Key take-aways:***

- Use of disposable pads for indoor emptying



- Empty valves away from others to minimize dispersion

### SOCIAL DISTANCING/SPACING

All of the studies recommend a **minimum** of a 6' x 6' spacing around each student. A **minimum** of 6' x 9' spacing is recommended for trombone players. Classroom capacity will differ for each school building as space varies and will be dependent upon adhering to the social distancing requirements. Schools should consider using larger facilities or spaces inside their buildings (e.g. – gyms, cafeteria, outside spaces). Any space used should be measured and pre-set with marks on the floor where chairs/music stands will be required for each student.

Due to social distancing and group size limits, large groups may be needed to be divided into smaller ensembles that could provide the opportunity to implement new instructional strategies to achieve the same outcomes.



Individual practice rooms can be addressed differently as there won't be others to infect in that room. However, following a practice session in a practice room, all equipment needs to be disinfected and the 3 air changes recommendation (or more) should occur prior to the next individual's use of that room.

#### **Key take-aways:**

- 6' CDC guidance (6' x 9' for trombones)
- Applies indoors/outdoors
- No contact, no congregating before/after
- Utilize pre-set marks on floor/stage for each student
- Break up larger groups into smaller ensembles
- Consider use of larger spaces (gym, cafeteria or outdoor space)

### TIMING

Instructional / rehearsal times must not exceed 30 minutes. This applies to both inside and/or outside rehearsal space. Rehearsals should start promptly and then once the 30-minutes is up, the room needs to be promptly "emptied" to allow for sufficient dispersal of residually-generated aerosols and for air exchange to occur within that space (discussed further below).

#### **Key take-aways:**

- 30 minutes of instruction/rehearsal time
- Empty room immediately following to allow for proper air exchange and dispersal of aerosols

### HYGIENE

There must be a dedicated procedure as to how students enter and exit the band classroom and accessing materials such as sheet music, music stands, etc. Students must use hand sanitizer upon entering the room, exiting the room, and masks must be worn at all times. Students must not share music, music stands, water bottles, reeds, mouthpieces, instruments, drumsticks, mallets, etc. When using recorders, each student must have their own instrument. Recorders must not be kept in a common storage area in the classroom. All equipment needs to be disinfected regularly after each use.

#### **Key take-aways:**

- Hand sanitizer available upon entrance/exit of room
- Masks at all times
- No sharing of equipment/materials
- Disinfect/sanitize equipment regularly after each use





### AIR FLOW/FILTRATION

Another key factor is the air exchange rate for music rehearsal rooms/classrooms. Many studies state there must be a minimum of 1 air exchange rate between classes, however it is highly recommended there be a minimum of 3 air exchange rates. To determine how this would work, each school will need to know what the HVAC system air exchange rate is for that specific space. Is it capable of providing that? If not, can additional ventilation be provided via opening windows, using fans, using HEPA air cleaners, how many air cleaners may be needed – depends on room size and how may space each air cleaner can properly clean. Need to know the CADR (Clean Air Delivery Rate) and the AHAM Certification (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers). Simply stating a school will wait 15 minutes may be insufficient. If are using air cleaners, then it is also vitally important that the HEPA filters are changed out per the manufacturer's recommendations. In general, the higher the air cleaning filter ratings, the better. Understand that older buildings may require a longer buffer time between sessions to allow for the air to refresh.

#### **Key take-aways:**

- Good ventilation and air change rate for spaces
- Outdoors is best
- Open windows if possible, use of fans
- HEPA filtration, 3 air exchange rate goal

### PERFORMANCES

There are unique challenges to conducting in-person performances involving chorus, show choirs, orchestra, jazz band, theater, ballet, etc. during this pandemic. While this guidance document does provide recommendations for putting on performances, due to spacing limitations it simply may not be possible to produce in-person events. When it is not possible to mount in-person performances with students, it is strongly recommended that schools create virtual productions. Educators and artists around the country have demonstrated that it is possible to create and share inventive and engaging work virtually. Onstage performances must be produced safely with students working in all capacities – onstage, backstage, and front of the house. The goal is to create such performances with minimum risk and concern for everyone involved in putting on such performances and to those in attendance.



#### **Key take-aways:**

- Spectators must conduct daily symptom assessments before each performance
- Spectators must be seated a **minimum** of 12 feet (preferably more) from the performers
- The maximum number of individuals gathered in an indoor venue is the lesser of 15% of fixed seating capacity or 300 individuals
- Recommend a pre-marked pathway of entrance in and out of the theater/auditorium
- Social distancing must be maintained throughout the venue. Seating must be arranged and assigned to allow for 6-feet in each direction between groups:
  - No more than 4 individuals, or
  - Members of 1 household (e.g. – parents/guardians and dependent children of a performer, director, staff, volunteer
  - Family members must sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/family groups
- Spectators must wear face coverings at all times (unless exempted)
- No congregating before/after performance is permitted
- Performers, staff, volunteers must not physically contact each other before or after performances. All volunteers must follow the same safety guidelines as all other school personnel and students



# Back to School

## Guidance for Greene County Schools

- Facilities must provide adequate space for social distancing for performers, directors, staff, volunteers. When actively performing, continue to maintain social distancing to the extent possible (more than 6-feet is recommended) to reduce the risk of airborne transmission of the coronavirus
- Provide hand sanitizer in the lobby and restrooms
- Sanitize all public areas prior to and after a performance – seats, rails, restrooms, back of house and other high-touch surfaces using EPA-approved disinfectants
- Sanitize all set pieces, props, equipment, instruments, microphones, headsets, control booth surfaces, etc. before and after a performance
- Masks must be worn at all times backstage and onstage during performances when at all possible (reference masks above in this document).

Regarding beginning instrumental demonstration and fittings, it is recommended that the suggestions made in the *Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education* (Aug. 21, 2020) be followed.

Due to social distancing and group size limits, large groups divided into smaller ensembles could provide the opportunity to implement new instructional strategies to achieve the same outcomes.

The general consensus is that music education can and should be permitted to occur in all of the models looked at – but it must be done so in as safe a manner as possible. Students should be permitted to opt out if they still don't feel like it is safe to participate in these classes.

### ***Links to the studies/research used in developing this guidance:***

- <https://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/music/>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/media/4030003/aerosol-study-prelim-results-round-2-final.pdf>
- [https://chemrxiv.org/articles/preprint/Comparing the Respirable Aerosol Concentrations and Particle Size Distributions Generated by Singing Speaking and Breathing/12789221](https://chemrxiv.org/articles/preprint/Comparing_the_Respirable_Aerosol_Concentrations_and_Particle_Size_Distributions_Generated_by_Singing_Speaking_and_Breathing/12789221)
- [https://www.nfhs.org/media/4119375/nafme\\_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-august-18-2020-updated-version.pdf](https://www.nfhs.org/media/4119375/nafme_nfhs-guidance-for-fall-2020-august-18-2020-updated-version.pdf)
- <https://www.omea-ohio.org/>
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Collegiate-Band-Choir-Dance.pdf>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/aerosol-study-faq-s-blog/>
- [https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTw2FWro1JLiL\\_EdTA\\_ReOpen\\_Guide\\_2020\\_FINAL.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTw2FWro1JLiL_EdTA_ReOpen_Guide_2020_FINAL.pdf)



### **APPENDIX C: School Guidance for Travel/Field Trips in K-12 Schools**

These guidance suggestions are being drafted in response to requests from schools wanting to resume travel/field trips within Greene County. This guidance summarizes the Health District’s position for the resumption of travel/field trips. The recommendations noted in this guidance come from the following sources:

- COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools
- K-12 Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club and Professional Sports – Responsible RestartOhio

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is the position of the Health District that field trips are still not recommended out-of-county or out-of-state. Traveling outside of the local community may increase the chances of exposure to students, staff, etc. to COVID-19, or unknowingly spreading it to others.

Attending the Greene County Career Center for either educational purposes or the exploration of the opportunities offered at the career center is deemed acceptable and any school offered transportation will need to adhere to the guidance already in place for transportation to school (i.e. individuals traveling by bus, etc., including students and staff, must wear face coverings and social distance where possible while in the vehicle).

There are many variables that could perhaps come into play and consideration when determining what location and/or facility would be “fit” for a field trip. Should schools choose to resume travel/field trips within Greene County, the Health District’s recommendation is that the school only travel to locations, venues, facilities, etc. that have developed and implemented safe operating guidelines based on the Responsible RestartOhio sector specific guidelines. The school should review those protocols prior to traveling to assess for safety. Schools have the ability to operate outside of these guidelines should they deem it appropriate.



### APPENDIX D: Sample COVID-19 Letter

Your organization letterhead

Date,

Dear Parent,

Your student has been in close contact to an individual with COVID-19. Close contact means being closer than six feet apart for fifteen minutes or more while the person was infectious, which applies from two days before any symptoms began. Your student should stay at home and watch for symptoms for 14 days total. For your student, this period begins \_\_\_\_\_ (date) and will continue until \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

Watch for symptoms. People with COVID-19 usually have mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath. Some people have other symptoms, including chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Not everyone with COVID-19 will have all symptoms and fever might not be present. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. While anyone exposed to the virus can get COVID-19, the risk for serious illness (having to be hospitalized, needing a ventilator, etc.) increases with age. People of any age with other types of medical conditions are also at a higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Monitor symptoms. If there is a medical emergency, call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility.

- Emergency signs of COVID-19 include trouble breathing, pain or pressure in the chest that will not go away, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.
- Most people will develop mild to moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, that will get better without medical help.
- Self-isolate and avoid contact with others, including those in your home.
- Self-isolation means staying at home in a specific room away from other people and pets, and using a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid sharing personal household items such as dishes, drinking glasses, cups, utensils, towels, or bedding with others in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water
- Stay in touch with others by calls (audio or video), instant messaging
- A contact tracer from Greene County Public Health will be in touch with you. They will help you monitor your student's symptoms and be a helpful resource during this period.

Sincerely,