

WSD Recommendations in relation to the Provincial Music Practices within K to 12 Schools

March 20, 2021

As stated in the bulletin *Manitoba Education's COVID- 19 BULLETIN #9 Music Practices within K to 12* Indoor singing and the playing of instruments, including wind instruments, may resume in K to 12 schools, both as part of music classes and as part of extra-curricular activities. These measures were developed in consultation with the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA) and the Association of Music Administrators of Manitoba (AMAM), including recommendations from the International Performing Arts Aerosol Study.

WSD Recommendations:

N – 6 music programs and grades 7 - 8 band and choral programming are to only take place outdoors with appropriately using individual mitigation techniques.

Grades 9 – 12 band and choral programs can practice indoors only if ALL of the requirements below are being met. Preference needs to be for 9 – 12 programs to access outdoor spaces when weather permitting.

If the following bullet list cannot be fully realized, indoor playing/singing may NOT occur and classes must take place outdoors, using individual mitigation techniques.

- Playing/singing outdoors when weather permits, using individual mitigation techniques (distancing, masking).
- Participants may not exceed 25 people, including teachers/staff.
- Markings on floor to indicate where students can sit/stand according to physical distancing guidelines (6'x6' of space per student). Additional 3' space in front of trombones (6'x9'). Flutes in the front row. Students arranged facing forward in straight, staggered lines in band and choir. Teacher requires more space when facing the group.
- Note that the use of barriers is currently NOT recommended by MMEA AMAM, as barriers may interfere with air exchanges.
- No more than 30 minutes of playing/singing at a time, with 20 minutes between playing/singing to ventilate space.
- Indoor spaces need to well ventilated. This may include opening windows to increase air circulation.
- Equipment (music stands, chairs, pianos, strings, percussion) cleaned between classes.
- No sharing of wind instruments.
- Students should empty spit valves when no one else is present. If this is not possible, students should empty spit valves while maintaining two metres physical distancing and ensuring that others are wearing masks.
- Use of medical masks for singers and with the playing of wind instruments
- All other public health measures must also be adhered to, including frequent handwashing and the wearing of masks.
- Concerts and public performances are not to take place at this time.

Best Practices include:

- The use of playing masks (overlapping or with slits) when playing wind instruments. Flute players can slide the headjoint between their mouth and mask
- The use of bell covers fashioned from multi-layered high-density fabric with a MERV13 filter and placed over the bell of an instrument.

Please find attached additional links for instrument covers and playing mask patterns:

Woodwind bags

<http://www.unitedsound.org/mask?fbclid=IwAR0Jb8sov7u3P75hEikSUv1bEcMnfx1Kv4VosyJmo2o4um7kzrfCv6ipE18>

Brass bell covers

<https://nwquiltedcat.com/2020/10/05/how-to-make-a-trumpet-bell-cover/>

Overlapping playing masks

<http://www.unitedsound.org/mask?fbclid=IwAR0Jb8sov7u3P75hElkSUv1bEcMnfx1Kv4VosyJmo2o4um7kzrfCv6ipE18>