



COMMUNICATION

ISSUE: Music Practices within K to 12 Schools

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, provided the following mandatory conditions are met:

- The total number of participants may not exceed 25 people, including teachers/staff.
- A minimum of two metres of physical distancing should be maintained between participants. The length of the instrument must be considered when determining physical distancing.
- If adequate distancing is not possible, the use of Plexiglas or other barriers should be considered and these barriers should be cleaned and disinfected after each practice.
- Instruments must be cleaned on a regular basis. See the hyperlink on the following page for detailed cleaning procedures for each type of instrument.

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. If public health officials issue revised health orders permitting concerts and performances to take place outside of schools, concerts may also resume in schools providing all applicable health measures are observed.

In addition to the mandatory conditions listed above, staff and teachers should consider implementing the following additional risk mitigation measures where possible:

- Persons in the room who are not singing/playing instruments should be at least two metres away from the performers, or farther away if possible, and should wear a mask at all times.
- Wind and brass instruments should not be shared between students, if possible. If it is necessary to share them for equity reasons, instruments must be thoroughly cleaned between each use. See the hyperlink on the following page for detailed cleaning procedures.
- 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.
- Equipment and materials such as music sheets, music stands, and so on should not be shared between students.
- The room used for music should have a well-functioning ventilation system. School staff should verify that the air exchange system is functioning properly.
- When weather permits, teachers should consider conducting music classes outside, if possible.
- Students should be arranged facing forward in straight, staggered lines in band and choir, and should be facing slightly away from each other when singing or playing wind instruments.

These measures were developed in consultation with the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA) and the Association of Music Administrators of Manitoba (AMAM). The Department of Education would like to thank MMEA and AMAM for their cooperation and advocacy on behalf of Manitoba students.



RELEVANT WEB LINKS

www.nfhs.org/articles/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines

Please forward questions and inquiries to educovid19@gov.mb.ca.

Additional information is available on the Manitoba Education COVID-19 website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html.