

SOUTH CAROLINA BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



To: Membership of the South Carolina Band Directors Association

From: Chaz Paxton, President

Re: Guidelines/Suggestions for Return to Summer Ensemble Rehearsals

Date: June 1, 2020

Fellow Directors:

I hope that this correspondence finds you all well and safe. Please find the attached “Guidelines for Return to Summer Ensemble Rehearsals.” As we transition into the summer months when summer rehearsals and band camps will take place, we felt compelled to offer guidelines and best practices in an attempt to ensure the safety and health of faculty (coaches), staff and students. The guidelines provided have been compiled based on CDC Guidelines, “Return to Play/Practice Team Sports” guidelines provided by the South Carolina High School League, and the “Student Safety and Music Program Continuation Ideas For Consideration” by the American Bandmasters Association. The recommendations provided in this document are **STEP 1**. We recommend that programs operate under **STEP 1** for five weeks beginning on June 8. The SCBDA will send out updated recommendations by July 12. It is our hope that we will have the ability to move to **STEP 2**, which would include less stringent methods for conducting in-person, face to face training. However, the recommendations made in mid-July will depend on the current conditions and there could be carryover from **STEP 1** in some areas.

Much like the SCHSL, the goal is to allow students, faculty and staff to begin in-person training and group activities while maintaining a safe environment. We feel that if programs choose to begin in-person training in the next six weeks, the need to follow these guidelines is strongly suggested. However, please understand that the guidelines that follow are just that, guidelines, and specific procedures and directives will be made by your individual school district. All directors should consult with their respective school district officials to ensure that district specific mandates and guidelines are being followed.

Sincerely,

Chaz Paxton, President
South Carolina Band Directors Association

Chaz Paxton
President

Leah Turner
Vice-President

Chuck Deen
President-Elect

Megan Cooper
Corresponding Secretary

Bill Ackerman
Executive Secretary/Treasurer



Disclaimer

The South Carolina Band Directors Association does not offer mandates nor directives to its membership. The suggestions given in this document are by no means mandates nor should be taken as such. The guidelines and suggestions given are simply “best practices” and suggestions to consider when offering face to face instruction and training during the initial portion of 2020 Summer activities. The information in this document is provided in good faith and further, we make no representation of warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the adequacy or completeness of these guidelines.

Under no circumstance shall we have any liability to you for any loss or damage of any kind incurred as a result of the use of these guidelines or reliance on any information provided in this document. Your reliance and use, or your non-reliance, on any information provided in this document is solely at your own risk.

Guidelines for Return of Band Ensemble Rehearsals

These guidelines and suggestions are intended for application in non-health care related places of employment. The foundation guidelines for businesses and employers remain the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s Interim Guidance for Business and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

All organizations have to determine how best to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace as well as in their community. In order to reopen and successfully remain open for business, every individually and collectively must actively participate in the core recommendations:

1. Self-isolation – if you are sick, stay home.
2. Practice social distancing of at least six feet distance to the greatest extent possible.
3. Wash hands frequently (20 seconds with soap and water or use of a sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol).
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects (e.g., keyboards, phones) and surfaces (e.g., handrails, workstations, sinks) or remove unnecessary frequently touched surfaces (e.g., trash can lids).
5. Avoid touching of eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
6. Strongly consider wearing a cloth face covering when in public (do not use on children under two years old, people with difficulty breathing or people who cannot remove the mask themselves).
7. Cover mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and throw used tissues away immediately after use.
8. Avoid using other employees’ phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment when possible, or disinfect them before and after use.
9. Minimize the use of soft surfaces like cloth covered chairs or area rugs that are more difficult to clean or disinfect.



Guidelines/Suggestions Specifically for Band Ensemble Rehearsal Settings:

In addition to the CDC Guidelines outlined above, the guidelines below are designed to further reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 during rehearsals, training, or competition. Following these guidelines does not guarantee that transmission of the virus will not occur. Participating in ensemble rehearsals comes with a risk of contracting COVID-19, other illnesses, or injury.

1. Maintain minimum physical distancing of at least six feet between participants at all times.
2. All directors, staff and students should be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a rehearsal, which includes temperature check and questionnaire.
3. Responses to the screening questions should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a director, staff member or student develops COVID-19 with appropriate attention given to privacy and confidentiality. Possible screening questions are:
 - a. Have you had a fever of 100.4 or higher in the past 72 hours?
 - b. Are you experiencing any of the following: cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea?
 - c. Have you have contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?
 - d. Do you have a compromised immune system or chronic disease?
4. If the director, staff member or student answers YES to any of the preceding questions, they should not be allowed to participate in the rehearsal and should be sent home immediately.
5. If a director, staff member or student has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they should not be allowed to participate in the rehearsal and should be sent home immediately.
6. Use of a digital thermometer is recommended. If a touch thermometer is used, it must be disinfected between individuals.
7. Face coverings/masks that completely cover the nose and mouth should be worn by all directors, staff and students.
 - a. Wind players should wear face covering when not actively playing the instrument.
 - b. Percussion and Color Guard students should wear face covering at all times if possible.
 - c. Directors and staff should wear face covering at all times.
8. Taking into consideration that rehearsal spaces (outdoor and indoor) vary among schools, we advise to consult your local school district policies as to how many students/staff can participate in face to face activities at a given time. However, we advise to practice proper social distancing practices be adhered to no matter the setting or number of participants.
9. Storage and changing rooms should not be utilized during **STEP 1**. Students and staff should report to rehearsals in proper gear/attire and immediately return home to shower at the conclusion of rehearsal.
10. Students should be encouraged to wash their rehearsal attire immediately upon returning home.
11. Bathroom access should be limited to every other stall, with no more people allowed inside than the number of stalls in use.
12. Rehearsals should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same group of student always rehearsing together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
13. There should be no car-pooling to or from rehearsals.

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14. Alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol or handwashing stations should be available to all participants.
15. Instruments, equipment and sheet music should not be shared without proper cleaning and disinfecting. This includes percussion mallets and sticks and color guard equipment.
16. Individual should bring their own water bottle to each rehearsal and not share this bottle with anyone. Use of communal water fountains is not recommended and should be avoided.
17. Signs should be posted at the front entrance to alert staff and students not to enter the facility if they have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days or have symptoms such as cough, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell.
18. Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all facilities used to mitigate any communicable diseases.
19. Prior to an individual or group of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within the facility should be wiped down and sanitized (chairs, stands, furniture, door knobs, etc.).
20. If indoor rehearsals are utilized, a few suggestions are:
 - a. Use portable air scrubbers (HEPA filtration system for large square footage).
 - b. Example of Air Scrubber: <https://www.amazon.com/Purifier-Washable-Pre-Filters-Particle-Allergens/dp/B073WJPK5H?th=1>
 - c. Have a plan for a “communal” water key dump site. Use buckets containing an alcohol based solution or provide personal sterilization materials for each individual as necessary for brass players to deal with water disposal.
 - d. Use of UVC lighting.

While this list is not exhaustive in terms of preventative measures, it is our hope that these recommendations can serve as a guide and a starting point for measures to be put in place to ensure the safety of directors, staff and students as you begin summer rehearsals in preparation for the marching band season.

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