



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Townsend Building
401 Federal Street Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901-3639
DOE WEBSITE: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us>

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education
Voice: (302) 735-4000
FAX: (302) 739-4654

Summer Band Camp Practices and Rehearsals July 17, 2020

Districts and charter schools should take their local context into account when deciding whether to offer summer band camp practices and rehearsals. This guidance is for districts and charter schools if they intend to schedule in-person band camp. The Delaware Department of Education (DOE) will continue to work with the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) on any potential modifications. The district or charter school shall also refer to the [Return to School Guidance](#) as it applies to the implementation of summer band camp practices and rehearsals.

Requirements for All Practices and Rehearsals

Schools must follow all state and local requirements in addition to the requirements below.

- In addition to on-campus options, schools should consider providing students guidance for practicing at home or remotely away from school. This can include virtual practices and emailed or otherwise electronically delivered practice instructions.
- Students should report to practices and rehearsals in proper attire and immediately return home to change clothes or shower at the end of the session.
- During practices and rehearsals, staff must ensure appropriate social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures are implemented.
- Schools must have hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer readily available in the practice and rehearsal area. Students and staff should be encouraged to use them frequently.
- All surfaces in practice and rehearsal areas must be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
- No clothing or towels may be laundered on site or shared during practices and rehearsals.
- There can be no shared drinks or food.
- Before the start of summer practices and rehearsals and at the start of every week of summer practices and rehearsals, schools should consider pre-screening all students for COVID-19 symptoms that they or others living in their household may experience. This can be completed by phone prior to the first day of practices or rehearsals, in person or in writing. Students and staff must self-screen every day for COVID-19 symptoms for themselves and family members.
- Schools should plan for entry and exit procedures that reduce the number of students and family members congregating outside and/or mixing around the practice areas and parking areas. Consider staggering start and end times, assigning students to entries and exits to ensure even distribution of students

entering/exiting at each entry point, providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six feet apart outside the entrance.

- If the school is planning to offer transportation for summer activities, schools should follow all the [Return to School Guidance](#) related to such transportation.
- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance when not actively practicing or rehearsing. When actively practicing and rehearsing, students and staff should maintain at least 10 feet of distance when possible.
- Social distancing should be observed when music is being taught. Students should learn the music standing still, spaced at a minimum of 6-foot intervals. If teachers need to move within the 6-foot area to correct a student's playing position, embouchure, posture, etc. they should do so briefly and then move back away.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Students and staff shall wear face coverings – even while playing instruments when possible – and that no talking should be done without a mask on. Participants who cannot feasibly wear a mask over the mouth while playing should wear one on the chin and move it over the mouth when resting.
- Students should be facing the same direction while adhering to social distancing with additional space provided for trombone players.
- Any equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before and after each use. If a student uses a piece of equipment, that equipment (i.e., percussion instruments) must be thoroughly disinfected before another student uses it.
- Spit valves should be emptied onto a puppy waste pad (or similar) rather than the ground/floor so that contents can be contained.
- Schools should limit the use of equipment to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus. No band instruments, other than percussion instruments, shall be shared.
- Students should be kept in stable groups throughout the practice with little to no mixing of groups.

Marching Band Activities Conducted Outdoors

- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance when not actively practicing or rehearsing. When actively practicing and rehearsing, students and staff should maintain at least 10 feet of distance when possible.
- Directors must create a plan for getting instruments from the band room to the practice facility that allows for social distancing and sanitation.
- Students should be spaced at a minimum of 3 step intervals (22.5" per step) for all drill and on field formations.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Any equipment, such as keyboard instruments, should be regularly disinfected during practice sessions. This equipment should not be shared between groups.

After a group has used such equipment, that equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before being used by a different group.

Marching Band Activities Conducted Indoors

- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance when not actively practicing or rehearsing. When actively practicing or rehearsing, students and staff should maintain at least 10 feet of distance when possible.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Any equipment, such as keyboard instruments, should be regularly disinfected during practice sessions. This equipment should not be shared between groups. After a group has used such equipment, that equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before being used by a different group.

Screening for and Addressing Illness, including COVID-19

- [DPH Essential Services Screening Guidance](#) shall be followed for summer band camp practices and rehearsals.
 - Those who are feeling sick, coughing or sneezing should stay home.
 - Those who have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not attend band camp practices or rehearsals until cleared by DPH.
 - Individuals who become ill with COVID-19 symptom should be immediately isolated from others until they are able to leave the premises.