

MSBOA's Recommended Guidelines:
COVID-19 Mitigation for all MSBOA Activities

Of paramount importance to the MSBOA is the health and well-being of our students, directors, and patrons. In an effort to support this belief, the MSBOA has established the following recommended guidelines for all MSBOA activities statewide. The MSBOA recognizes the COVID environment in which we live is a very fluid situation and can change from day to day. When and where the CDC and/or County Health Department are recommending more restrictive methods of mitigation, those recommendations supersede those of the MSBOA. Additionally, we ask that all member directors and participants respect the hosting institution's mitigation requirements.

Masks: All MSBOA activities should follow the requirements of the hosting institution. If masks are not required at a particular site, the MSBOA strongly suggests masks be worn by all participating directors, MSBOA workers, and students when not actively playing a wind instrument.

Bell Covers: All MSBOA activities should follow the requirements of the hosting institution. If bell covers are not required at a particular site, the MSBOA strongly suggests bell covers be used by all students rehearsing/performing on a wind instrument.

Symptoms Present: If a participating director, MSBOA worker, or student is experiencing symptoms possibly related to COVID-19, that individual should not be present at the activity. In the case of an MSBOA worker, it is up to the assigned director to find an approved substitute. The MSBOA worker should notify the VP of Workers, VP of the Festival, and the host as soon as symptoms are present, and again when an approved substitute is secured. State/District officials should be sensitive to emergency situations and help in whatever way possible.

Distancing: All MSBOA activities will make every effort to ensure performing musicians are three (3) feet apart when rehearsing and performing. Furthermore, all MSBOA activities will make every effort to mitigate congested areas at the activity such as, but not limited to, gymnasiums, hallways, cafeterias, auditoriums, B&O sight-reading rooms, etc.

Timing: The MSBOA is recommending all indoor large ensemble rehearsals take place for a maximum of 50 minutes followed by a vacation of the room for a time period allowing for one complete air change. This is dependent on the HVAC at the facility.

Testing: While not required, the MSBOA strongly encourages all participants to have a COVID test done prior to the MSBOA activity in order to help mitigate asymptomatic spread of the virus.

Vaccinations: While not required, the MSBOA encourages all eligible participants in any MSBOA activity to be fully vaccinated.

Communication: It is the responsibility of the host/organizing individual to communicate the mitigation requirements of their site/activity to all participating directors and MSBOA workers as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the participating directors to communicate the requirements to their students and parents as soon as possible. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended for the site's mitigation requirements to be clearly visible and posted in prominent locations throughout the facility.

Acquisition of PPE: It is the responsibility of each member school/participating individual to acquire the recommended/required PPE (masks and bell covers). The MSBOA will not be responsible for providing the necessary PPE.