



September 23, 2020

Safety Plan for Large Ensembles

Purpose: Reduce exposure to COVID-19 during participation in School of Music and Dance (SOMD) programs

Scope: Applies to faculty, staff and students in the SOMD

Background: Multiple strategies must be employed in an effort to reduce the likelihood of transmission of COVID19 during rehearsal and performance of large ensembles. These strategies will require some significant changes from traditional methods. This document outlines the requirements for all large ensembles, specific requirements for individual ensembles based on their individual risks and optional recommendations for increased safety. All requirements and recommendations are based on the most current information available from sources including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OR-OSHA). Industry specific recommendations were taken from the International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Round 2.

Requirements for All Large Ensembles

1. No ensemble will have a roster of musicians and staff that total more than 33 people.
2. All participants wear masks or other approved face covering when in SOMD buildings. Face coverings will not be modified except for specific instruments and only during rehearsal or performance.
3. Modified facial coverings will be allowed for:
 - a. Brass:
 - i. Trumpet
 - ii. Trombone
 - iii. French Horn
 - iv. Tuba
 - b. Woodwinds
 - i. Flute
 - ii. Clarinet
 - iii. Oboe
 - iv. Bassoon
 - v. Saxophone
 - c. Modified facial coverings will only be used during rehearsal/performance. Participants must switch to unmodified masks immediately upon completion of rehearsal/performance.
4. A maximum number of participants is listed for each ensemble. This number must not be exceeded at any time. Maximum participants includes staff, observers, guests, accompanists, visitors, etc.
5. Seats will be set at a minimum of 6' apart except for trombones which will have 9' clearance directly in front to allow for the trombone slide.
6. Conductors will be a minimum of 12' from closest musicians.



7. Rehearsal time is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes of active playing in a single space.
8. Sound shields will be used as an additional barrier and will be placed, as supply allows, in front of Brass and woodwind players.
9. All participants will be requested to leave the room immediately after rehearsals to allow for adequate time for cleaning protocols to occur. Unless attending another rehearsal in a different space, students may choose to leave the building or go outside.
10. After the rehearsal or performance, an electrostatic sprayer with Bioesque Disinfectant will be used by staffers to spray the chairs, music stands and other surfaces. Cleaning wipes must be used by ensemble participants on high touch surfaces such as door handles, podium, and/ or other shared equipment.
11. Rooms will have a 30-minute wait time between use to allow for a minimum of 1 air change.
12. All brass instruments will use bell covers. Each musician will be responsible for washing his or her own bell covering after each use.
13. Instrument spit valves will be emptied directly onto absorbent sheets (puppy pads). Pads will be disposed of into regular trash cans after each rehearsal.
14. Conductors may choose to increase their level of respiratory protection by wearing a KN95 or an N95 respirator. Coordinate with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to ensure training and regulatory requirements are met prior to N95 use.
15. All participants in SOMD ensembles will review the safety plan prior to participation. Copies of the plan will be made readily available for review by faculty, staff and students.
16. Faculty and staff will ensure that all elements of this plan are consistently implemented. If lack of compliance or other COVID related behavioral concerns arise, the concern will be reported via the [COVID-19 Behavioral Concern Reporting Form](#). Faculty, staff or students may use this form when needed.

Additional Requirements for Specific Ensembles

1. Orchestral – comprised of strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion
 - a. Rehearsal/class location: FMB 190, 140, 142, 150, 173, 178, Berwick 101, Beall Hall
 - b. Max occupancy= As posted on COVID Occupancy signs or no more than 33 persons, whichever is less
 - c. Increase distance between strings and woodwinds/brass.
2. Wind Ensemble – comprised of woodwinds, brass and percussion
 - a. Rehearsal/class location: FMB 190, 140, 142, 173
 - b. Max occupancy= As posted on COVID Occupancy signs or no more than 33 persons, whichever is less
3. Choral – comprised of singers of all voice types, usually accompanied by piano and sometimes small hand percussion. This category will also include the UO Gospel Choir Program
 - a. Rehearsal/class location: FMB 163, 142, 150 Berwick 101, Beall Hall
 - b. Max occupancy= As posted on COVID Occupancy signs or no more than 33 persons, whichever is less
 - c. Vocalists will use specialized mask during rehearsals.
 - d. Physical distancing for vocalists will be a minimum of 12'.



4. Jazz, Big Bands and Combos – comprised of winds, brass and percussion
 - a. Rehearsal/class location: FMB 173, 184, 190,
 - b. Max occupancy= As posted on COVID Occupancy signs or no more than 33 persons, whichever is less

Optional Recommendations for ALL Large Ensembles

1. Practice outside (distancing measures and mask use still required).
2. Increase distancing beyond 6' for modified mask musicians, where space allows.
3. Consider changing traditional seating arrangements so altered masked musicians are not directing their instruments towards other musicians.
4. Conductors may choose to increase their level of respiratory protection by wearing a KN95 or an N95 respirator. Coordinate with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to ensure training and regulatory requirements are met prior to N95 use.
5. Faculty and staff can take the UO COVID-19 Training online on MyTrack by using [this link](#).

References:

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Oregon Health Authority](#)

[International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Round 2](#)

[University of Oregon Coronavirus Website](#)

APPROVED: 09/25/2020