

MARCHING BAND HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Summer Voluntary Rehearsals

Upper Perkiomen School District

Overview

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that affects the respiratory system and can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world. Virus symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness that could require hospitalization. COVID-19 can affect people of all ages.

An individual can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19 since the virus is primarily spread from person to person. Infection occurs from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Infection may also occur by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of spreading and contracting COVID-19, current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, staff, and their families. The Upper Perkiomen School District will take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of students and staff while following, to the best of our ability, the guidance and recommendations of federal, state and local governments as well as the CDC, WHO, SLUHN, and other available guidance. As more information becomes available about COVID-19, this plan may be modified and updated.

Summer Marching Band Rehearsals for all high school marching band members may begin on Tuesday, July 14 and run through Sunday, August 16-- specifics include:

- **Percussion Mini-Camp**, scheduled for July 22-24-- students would have to be inside for a majority of the rehearsals (20 percussionists, plus 2-3 staff members)
 - Students rehearse on the auditorium stage as a group and in the band room as needed
 - Masks will be worn when students are not actively participating in the rehearsal
- **Band Camp**, scheduled on August 3-7 and August 10-12.
 - Large group rehearsal (39 students) is held in the band room. The choir room will also be utilized to maintain social distancing. Percussion (20 students) section stays on stage. Color guard (4 students) members are in shaded areas outside.

- Chairs will be spread apart to effectively keep students distanced.
- Masks will be worn when students are not actively participating in the rehearsal.
- When the entire group is outside, students are to have masks on except for when actively participating in the rehearsal. The field show is being written so students can remain a safe distance apart while performing.

A schedule for rehearsals and site locations will be developed by the Band Director in conjunction with the Athletic Director and Principal.

****Please see the timing of rehearsal dates above, included at the end of this document. ****

High Risk Groups

People with a higher risk of COVID-19 should consider delaying their participation in sports and activities given the increased risk.

Some of the higher risk categories are:

People at Higher Risk for Severe Illness	Individuals who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding
People who are immunocompromised	Individuals with Diabetes
Older Adults age 65 and Older	Individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease
Individuals with Asthma or Chronic Lung Disease	Individuals with Severe Obesity (BMI 40+)
Individuals with HIV	Individuals with Liver Disease

If there is a concern about the risk associated with participation due to underlying health conditions, the individual should consult their health care provider prior to returning to sports.

Point of Contact

The primary point of contact for this plan is the Band Director. Secondary contact is the High School Principal

PPE Requirements

On July 1, 2020, PA Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, signed an order for mandatory face coverings for anyone over the age of 2 years old when outside the home. As a result and until further notice or a change of the current order in place, all directors and students must wear a mask or face covering in compliance with the order for all on campus rehearsals and Band Camp activities - both inside the school and outside of the building.

In the guidance that was issued to clarify the impact on athletics and activities, the following FAQ was shared with school districts:

Does the Order apply to athletes and sports activities?

Yes. Everyone must wear a face covering, such as a mask, unless they fall under an exception. Coaches, athletes and spectators (Directors and Students) must wear face coverings unless they are

outdoors and can consistently maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. Athletes (Students) are not required to wear face coverings while actively engaged in workouts and competition that prevent the wearing of face coverings, but must wear face coverings when on the sidelines, in the dugout, etc. and anytime 6 feet of social distancing is not possible.

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-sec-of-health-signs-expanded-mask-wearing-order/>

Pre-Rehearsal Screening

When a director or student arrives for a rehearsal, ALL will be required to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds (or use hand sanitizer if a handwashing station is not available). Following that, the individual will report to the director, who will screen each individual. During this screening process, directors and students must be wearing a face covering. Documentation will be done via a paper/computerized form or the use of online documentation. Directors that perform screenings will keep this documentation. Responses to screening questions for each student is to be recorded and stored, and may be used to keep a record of everyone present, should a student, director, or staff member develop COVID-19.

If there is a positive finding or “YES” answer to any of the screening questions, the student or director should be isolated and sent home. Parents will be asked to have their student examined by a medical professional and to provide follow-up documentation that the student-athlete is free from the COVID-19 virus.

As part of this process, the individual conducting the screening will utilize a non-contact thermometer to take the temperature of each student and director. If someone registers a temperature of 100.4 or higher, he/she will be isolated for 5 minutes and the temperature will be taken again. Following another 5-minute isolation period, the student-athlete will have a third temperature reading. If the average temperature of the 3 readings is 100.4 or higher, the parent/guardian must be contacted to pick up the student. At this point, parents will be asked to have the student examined by a medical professional and to provide follow-up documentation that the student is free from the COVID-19 virus.

If a student or director gets sick, he/she will be isolated and sent home and must follow the student/director return to play (participate) protocol.

Education

Prior to participation in summer rehearsals, parents will be required to sign an electronic acknowledgement form indicating that they and their child understand the risks of COVID-19 associated with participation. This acknowledgement form must be electronically signed before a student can begin participation. Included in the form will be information about COVID-19 and safety precautions that can be taken. This will be similar to the education and sign-off forms for concussion and sudden cardiac arrest that are a part of the PIAA protocols for athletics.

Directors will encourage any student who feels sick to remain home.

Signs will be posted in bathrooms and near training facilities emphasizing social distancing and proper hygiene.

Social Distancing

Directors and students must stay 6 feet apart at all times. Rehearsals and Band Camp activities must be organized to allow for this required spacing. This includes students actively engaged in activity, as well as students waiting for participation or during a break.

Directors will group students in small pods as appropriate.

In addition, students should not enter or leave school together. Parents picking up students should remain in their vehicles.

Indoor facilities including, but not limited to the band room, choir room, instrument storage, stage area, and stage bathrooms will be available for use during percussion sectionals (July 22-24) and band camp in August. When inside, multiple locations will be used to keep students properly socially distanced.

Student and director bags, instruments, etc. should be separated 6 feet apart.

Number of Participants

Each activity area will be limited to 250 participants (or such other number as the Commonwealth, County or CDC may determine) which includes directors and students. Parents, community members, and spectators will not be permitted to attend.

Equipment Sanitizing

Prior to each rehearsal, all equipment and school instruments will be sanitized. Percussion instruments that are too large to transport home every day will also be sanitized at the end of each rehearsal.

Students will not share equipment with one another including instruments and music, etc. Band students each have their own instrument that will be taken home each day and brought back to school the following day for rehearsal. Time will be given at the end of each rehearsal for students to sanitize their own instrument mouthpiece before packing into their cases (spray is provided in the band room).

Students and directors will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently during rehearsals.

Bathrooms

A maximum of 1 individual may be in each of the stage bathrooms at any given time. These spaces will be cleaned on a regular basis. Doors to enter these areas will be propped open when possible to allow for air flow and to remove touching of the door handle.

Hydration

All students must provide their own water bottles for hydration which should be labeled with the individuals' name. Students will not be permitted to participate without water. Water bottles must not be shared. The District will not provide water or the use of coolers during camp. In addition, water fountains and outdoor hoses will not be available.

Personal Conduct

There will be no chewing gum, spitting, licking fingers or eating sunflower seeds. Students will not be allowed to shake hands, high five one another or fist bump during rehearsals.

Hygiene

At the conclusion of a rehearsal, students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. Students will be encouraged to shower as soon as they get home from their rehearsal. In addition, students should be encouraged to wash all garments and equipment after each rehearsal.

Facility Cleaning

All facilities utilized during summer rehearsals and Band Camp will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. The Director of Facilities and Operations in consultation with the Head Custodian will establish a schedule for cleaning.

Student or Director Who Contracts COVID-19

If a student participant or director contracts the COVID-19 virus, the individual must quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. Any individual who was in close contact with the person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be notified and advised on whether the secondary individual must also quarantine by district health professionals.

Following the 14-day quarantine, the individual must have also met the following criteria prior to returning to summer workouts:

1. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since the individual has recovered (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
2. The individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath)
3. At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms
4. Written documentation of clearance from a healthcare provider (MD, DO, NP, PA)

Specific Accommodations and Marching Band Summer Rehearsal Times

Marching Band-- Students have their own instruments and set of music. Music rehearsals can be broken into small group sectionals keeping students at a 6 foot distance.

Band Front members have their own set of flags and do not share with one another.

Summer Rehearsals

Tuesdays Starting July 21

July 21, 28 6:00 -8:00pm

Drumline/Pit Camp (Band room, choir room, stage access and outside access)

July 22-24 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Band Camp--- usually held inside (music) and outside (drill-learning)

August 3-6 **9:00am - 12:00pm**

6:00pm - 9:00pm

August 7 **9:00am - 12:00pm**

August 10-12 **9:00am - 12:00pm**

Additional Rehearsals (Before school starts- mostly outside)

Mon. August 17 **6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Thurs. August 20 **3:00 - 5:00 pm**

Mon. August 24 **6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Thurs. August 27 **3:00 - 5:00 pm**

School Schedule (mostly outside)

Mondays **6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Thursdays **3:00 - 5:00 pm**