

**PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
HEALTH PROTOCOLS FOR ARTS INSTRUCTION, 2022-23**

HISTORY

The Princeton Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts Department has worked extensively to provide high quality instruction during all phases of the pandemic. Over the last 30 months, we developed a series of plans that implemented recommendations and guidance from the Princeton Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS), and national and state arts education organizations. Some of the mitigation strategies that we use are tied to the COVID-19 Community Level, as defined by the CDC and the NJDOH. If local conditions in Princeton indicate increased community transmission or an outbreak, we may introduce additional mitigation strategies, in consultation with district administration, our school physician, and the Princeton Department of Health.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR ARTS PROGRAMS, 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

1. **PROMOTING VACCINATION:** We encourage all persons to take advantage of the widely available vaccines and boosters.
2. **MASKS:** Masks will only be required in arts programs when they are required in other areas of the school building, as determined by increased community transmission and/or an outbreak. We will no longer use bell covers for instruments. When masks are required in other subject areas, students may use their own face masks or a special face mask with a slit for the mouthpiece. While playing an instrument, the mask may rest on the chin, but it should be returned to cover the nose and mouth when speaking. Instruction will take place indoors in arts classrooms. If a teacher chooses to take a class outdoors, masks will be optional.
3. **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** When the CDC Community Level is low or medium, there will not be a physical distancing requirement. When the community transmission level is high, three feet of physical distance will be required between all students during arts activities, similar to other classrooms.* Teachers and instructional assistants will maintain six feet of physical distance from students.
4. **TIME:** There are no time limits on arts activities.
5. **SCREENING:** We will no longer conduct daily screening for students and staff. Students and staff should stay home when they are feeling ill.
6. **VENTILATION:** All arts programs will take place indoors in the arts classrooms and auditoriums. At all schools, we have installed MERV 8 or MERV 13 filters in our HVAC systems. Air exchange rates in all performing arts classrooms exceed the recommended 3.0 air changes per hour.
7. **HYGIENE:** Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly throughout the day. Students will utilize their own instruments and music. In visual art classes, care will be taken to ensure sufficient physical distance during distribution and collection of materials. Custodial staff will fully clean the facilities every evening.
8. **FIELD TRIPS:** Day field trips may resume with the approval of the school principal. Overnight field trips require specific Board of Education approval. Please see the protocols listed below for the PHS Choir Performance Tour to Portugal.

PROTOCOLS FOR EVENTS

1. **LOCATION:** Auditoriums, theatres, all-purpose rooms, and gymnasiums will be used for performing arts events. Lobbies, hallways, and Numina Gallery will be used for visual art exhibitions. The district will resume facility rentals for outside groups, provided that users follow our COVID-19 protocols below.
2. **PROMOTING VACCINATION:** We encourage all persons to take advantage of the widely available vaccines and boosters. For the performances held off-campus (i.e. Princeton University), we will follow the vaccination and testing policies of that institution in place at the time of the event.
3. **MASKS:** Masking in the arts will follow the mask rules in place for all other classrooms. If the school district requires face masks in order to enter one of our buildings, visitors must comply as well. We will no longer require instrument bell covers.
4. **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** When the CDC Community Level is low or medium, our indoor performance venues will operate at 100% capacity. If the CDC Community Level is high, our indoor performance venues will operate at 50% capacity.*
5. **SCREENING:** We will no longer conduct daily screening for students, staff, or visitors. Performers and visitors should stay home when they are feeling ill.
6. **VENTILATION:** In all of our facilities, we have installed MERV 8 or MERV 13 filters in our HVAC systems. Air exchange rates in all performing arts classrooms and auditoriums exceed the recommended 3.0 air changes per hour.
9. **TIME:** There are no time limits on performances and other events.
7. **HYGIENE:** Hand sanitizer and extra paper masks will be available for all events. Custodians will fully clean the facilities every evening.
8. **REFRESHMENTS:** Food and drink will be permitted at indoor events. If a mask requirement is instituted due to increased community transmission, consumption of refreshments will take place outdoors.

PROTOCOLS FOR OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP TO PORTUGAL

1. **OVERVIEW:** The high school arts department sponsors several day and overnight field trips each year. During the 2021-22 school year, we did not travel internationally, but we did travel overnight within the continental United States. An international trip is being planned for the PHS Choir to travel to Portugal in February 2023. No student will be denied access to a trip for their inability to pay for the cost of the trip. All proposals for overnight field trips have been reviewed by our school physician and the district's Health and Safety Committee.
2. **VACCINATION:** Students and staff must be "up-to-date" with their COVID-19 vaccinations in order to attend this overnight field trip. To be considered up-to-date, the CDC recommends that all persons be fully vaccinated and boosted when eligible. Proof of vaccination must be uploaded to our school nurse through the PowerSchool parent portal at least one month before travel.
3. **TESTING:** In addition to proof of vaccination status, all students and staff must submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours before leaving PHS; a home test is acceptable. We no longer need proof of a negative COVID-19 test to re-enter the United States. After returning home, all students and staff must test again before returning to school; a home test is acceptable. All persons should self-monitor for symptoms; they should isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.
4. **MASKS AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Students will maintain a minimum of three feet of physical distance whenever possible. We will follow Princeton Public Schools protocols

in place at the time of the trip for masks/bell covers and physical distancing indoors. Some performances may take place outside; masks/bell covers will not be required outdoors. The guidance on masking and physical distancing may be updated in response to the community transmission data.

5. **TRANSPORTATION:** Travel will be by airplane and coach bus. Masks will be worn on all transportation and inside airports.
6. **HOTEL:** Hotel room occupancy will be 3 to 4 students per room. Masks will not be required while sleeping. All hotels will have a COVID-19 cleaning protocol.
7. **MEDICAL TREATMENT:** We will seek medical treatment and testing if a person on the trip exhibits symptoms. If a student tests positive while on the trip, they will mask and isolate, and they will continue to travel by bus with the group. While traveling, the student will wear a well fitted mask and maintain distance from others. All other students and staff on the bus will wear masks until they disembark the bus. If the isolation period is not complete by the time of the return flight, a chaperone will stay with the student until the student is cleared to fly home.
8. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance will be included as part of the cost of the trip. The insurance plan covers individual cancellation due to illness or quarantine before the trip, as well as trip interruption during the trip due to illness or quarantine. In the case of trip interruption, any airline fees for changes for the student or their chaperone are covered, as well as any hotel/meal charges. We will ensure that everyone gets home safely as quickly as possible. In the event that the entire trip is canceled by Princeton Public Schools, please know that we will make every effort to secure refunds for everyone.

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