

Health and Safety Plan for the Marching Arts Program Manheim Central School District

The decision to resume extracurricular activities such as marching band, including rehearsal and performances, is within the discretion of a school entity's governing body. Each school entity must develop and adopt a Health and Safety Plan aligning to the PDE Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools prior to conducting sports-related activities with students. The plan must include the provisions of this guidance, be approved by the local governing body of the school entity, and be posted on the school entity's publicly available website.

Each school entity should continue to monitor its Health and Safety Plan throughout the year and update as needed. All revisions should be reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the school entity's public website.

This Health and Safety Plan has been created in conjunction with the Manheim Central School District Health and Safety Plan for Athletics. The Manheim Central Marching Band program will abide by and follow all applicable guidelines set forth in the MCSD Athletics Health and Safety Plan, and any and all additional guidelines set forth and adopted by the district that may supplement or supersede these documents.

Additional resources used to create this plan include documentation from the sources below:

- [Pennsylvania Department of Education Guidelines](#)
- [Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Guidelines](#)
- [American Bandmasters Association COVID-19 Student Safety and Music Program Continuation Ideas for Consideration](#)
- [National Federation of State High School Associations Guidelines](#)

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Ensemble Protocols & Logistics

1. The school-approved Band Director must be named as the primary point of contact for the marching band program for all questions related to COVID-19:
 - a. John J. Brackbill, Director of Bands; brackbillj@manheimcentral.org
2. The Band Director, in cooperation with school district officials, has developed a procedure in the event that a student, staff member, or district-approved volunteer falls ill. This plan will be distributed to all students and their family members.
3. Prior to the first in-person rehearsal, the Band Director must hold an education session for their staff, students and parents/guardians on the symptoms of COVID-19. This session will be done virtually. This presentation will also address sanitation/hand washing procedures, instrument cleaning procedures, and what to do if students experience any of the symptoms. An electronic acknowledgement form will be available that must be completed upon viewing of this session.
4. Parent consent--Students planning on participating in marching band must have a signed COVID-19 participation waiver on file in order to attend any rehearsals.
5. At the beginning of every event scheduled, including small group sectionals, full rehearsals and performances with the organization, a health screening must take place for all students and staff.
 - a. This screening will include answers to screening questions as outlined in the NFHS guidelines. Responses to screening questions will be recorded and stored in accordance to HIPAA guidelines and to assist health officials with contact tracing if necessary.
 - b. If a student answers "Yes" to any of the screening questions, their temperature will be taken outside of the rehearsal space. If a temperature > 100.4 degrees is registered; the student will not be allowed to enter the building or take part in rehearsal but will be placed in isolation and masked. They will be encouraged to contact their primary-care provider.
 - c. Vulnerable individuals (as defined by the CDC) have the option to not oversee or participate in any rehearsals that take place during the yellow phase. Alternate rehearsal options will be provided in these cases.
6. All staff members must have a mask on their person at all times. If direct, individual instruction is required, staff members must wear a mask if social distancing is not possible, and keep the interaction to an absolute minimum.
 - a. Students are encouraged to wear masks at any point when they are not active in the rehearsal and/or performance process. It is recommended that students have masks that are easy to remove from the face when playing of their instrument is necessary.

7. During both the yellow and green phases, meals may not be served for groups, either by district staff or parent volunteers. If food is brought by an individual, food may not be shared.
8. Any “full ensemble” meetings that deal solely with logistics and/or nonmusical items should be held in a virtual environment during the yellow and green phases.
9. An onhand supply of disinfectants and sanitizers will be on hand and readily available.
10. All collection of paperwork and finances related to band operations will be done electronically.
 - a. Cash transactions for band-related fees are strongly discouraged.
11. Uniform sizing and distribution will be delayed until the green phase AND as close to the end of the summer/beginning of the school year as possible.

Rehearsal Considerations

1. Rehearsals held for a group during the yellow and green phases must be limited to the 25 participants (yellow) / 250 participants or 50% capacity whichever is less (green) restrictions.
 - a. Minimal staffing will be used during the yellow phase when possible to maximize the amount of students that can attend a rehearsal.
 - b. During the yellow phase, parent volunteers should not be present on campus unless involved in the direct pickup/dropoff of students. Parents should remain in vehicles during this process.
 - c. Cohorts of members will be created, kept consistent and separate for the duration of the rehearsals from drop off to pick up.
2. Rehearsals will be structured to use as much outside space as is available, contingent upon weather, and an inside rehearsal plan will be developed to maximize social distancing and separation of cohorts.
3. A drop-off/pick-up plan will be established for rehearsals. This will address individual sections, estimated time windows, and locations for parents and students and include multiple points of dropoff and pickup to minimize individual contact.
 - a. Students and staff that drive to rehearsals should park every other space in parking lots when able.
4. Students must transport their individual instruments to/from every rehearsal, unless it is a large instrument such as a Sousaphone, etc. Those instruments will be stored in designated areas and handled ONLY by the students who play them. No shared equipment, whenever feasible (ex. Xylophone may be shared, but mallets, which are the contact point between student and instrument, would not)
5. All participants must bring their own water bottles and drinks to all activities.
 - a. **In the yellow phase**, water bottles should be large enough to accommodate the amount of water needed for the rehearsal.
 - b. **In the green phase**, water refilling stations may be utilized but must be sanitized after every rehearsal, and be operated by ONE person only.

6. Whenever possible, warmup activities (be it musical or visual) will be done with a minimum of a 3-step distance between performers (6 feet).
7. Physical training activities should be performed with a minimum of a 6-step distance between performers (12 feet).
8. Staff instruction of all students should be done from a distance of 6-feet. If there is a need to move closer to correct a student's playing position, embouchure, posture, etc., staff **MUST** wear a mask and keep the interaction to an absolute minimum.

Recommended Sanitization Procedures for Instruments & Equipment

1. An Electrostatic Sprayer will be used in between each indoor session and at the beginning or end of the day.
2. Equipment that is used and shared (i.e. mallet percussion) will be wiped down after usage by staff using Suprox products. This includes anytime equipment is transported from one location to another.
3. Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in rehearsals, and at the conclusion of rehearsals.
4. Hand sanitizer/suprox will be available for use.