

SUMMER MARCHING BAND ACTIVITY

IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION PROTOCOLS

* summarized from the EMS-ISD Fine Arts Return-to-Campus Plan for Marching Bands. The full 7-page plan can be found at www.emsisd.com/finearts

1. Screening Questionnaire

Prior to leaving your home for a Marching Band Activity, be sure you can answer “No” to the question, “Have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following symptoms within the past 10 days?”

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Chills or Repeated Shaking with Chills
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19

If you or a member of your household are experiencing any of these symptoms, please stay home from the activity and self-isolate, seek evaluation by a medical professional / get tested for COVID-19, and report any affirmative diagnosis to your director so that timely contact tracing can be effectively implemented.

If you experience any of the symptoms listed above and are not tested for COVID-19, you are assumed to have the virus and may not participate in school activities until the steps laid out on p.3 of the EMS-ISD Fine Arts Return-to-Campus plan have been met.

2. Bring Your Own Water

Every participant (Directors, Staff, & Students) must provide their own drinking water. Sharing is absolutely prohibited. It is recommended that you bring a 1/2-gallon to 1-gallon insulated water jug. EMS-ISD has authorized coaches to fill a student-athletes' water jug in the event that the student runs out of water during the course of an activity; since Band Directors will not always have access to a water supply to assist you, be sure to fill your jug completely prior to leaving your home for the activity. Students are not permitted to drink from or handle drinking fountains or vending machines on campus until further notice.

If you arrive for a Band activity without your own water, you may be sent home & prohibited from participating in the activity.

3. Temperature Check

Every participant (Directors, Staff, & Students) must check-in at a designated screening checkpoint prior to entering into an indoor facility or engaging in an organized outdoor activity. You will give your Name & Student ID Number and will have your temperature taken (with an infrared non-contact thermometer). If your temperature is greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, you will be sent to a Licensed Athletic Trainer (LAT) for evaluation. If an LAT is not available on-site, you will not be permitted to participate in the activity and will be sent home.

If your temperature exceeds or is equal to 100.0° AND you are experiencing no other symptoms, you may request a period of 10 minutes to cool down in the shade and then have your temperature rechecked one final time before being dismissed from the activity and asked to return home to self-isolate.

In-person fitness conditioning & sectional rehearsals are VOLUNTARY and attendance is OPTIONAL until further notice. At-home options will be available to those who prefer to stay at home.

4. Hand Sanitizing Stations

Hand Sanitizing Stations will be provided near the designated screening checkpoint. All participants will sanitize their hands prior to entry / re-entry into an indoor facility or before engaging in an organized outdoor activity. Students will be reminded to apply hand sanitizer before, during, and after their activity, especially if physical contact was made with any person or surface.

5. Approved Points of Entry

Designated Screening Checkpoints will serve as the ONLY approved points of entry into & exit from the facility for any indoor activities. All other points of entry & exit will remain inaccessible until further notice.

6. Maintain Distance & Avoid Physical Contact

Two keys to minimizing the spread of germs & harmful pathogens include not touching people or surfaces where germs can “live” outside of the body, and to maintain distance from others that exceeds the distance germs can travel in respiratory droplets & / or aerosol particles (generally believed to be about 3.5 feet, although droplets from a cough can travel as far as 19 feet, and droplets from a sneeze can travel as far as 26 feet). We will maintain 6 to 10 feet of personal distance from others at all times during organized band activities.

7. Cover Your Mouth & Nose

For many of our activities, it may not be practical to wear a face covering such as a surgical mask. We urge our participants to wear a face covering that covers your mouth and nose during transitional interactions where 6+ feet of physical distancing can not be guaranteed. Once you are set-up in your working groups and appropriate physical distance has been established, your directors will invite you to remove your face covering for the duration of your instructional activity. If somebody located within 15-25 feet of you is not wearing a face covering and they cough or sneeze, the resultant respiratory droplets can likely reach you whether you are wearing a mask or not. With outdoor allergens such as tree pollens, grass pollens, and industrial particulates at moderate-to-high levels throughout the summer, coughing & sneezing at Summer Band activities is extremely common. Covering your mouth & nose will help to prevent you from coughing or sneezing your own respiratory droplets into the air that someone else is about to breathe, and that will go a long way to slow the spread of germs from person-to-person. So whether you are wearing a mask or not, be sure to cover your cough or sneeze.

IT IS UP TO US!

It is up to us to do all that we can to keep ourselves healthy and to prevent the spread of any illness to our friends, family, and #BandFamily! It's easy to relate to the many individuals & institutions who—all around us—are expressing a desire for life to get back to “normal” as soon as possible, because we want that too. Our maturity, responsibility, and care for the well-being of others will be important factors as we explore opportunities to work together throughout June, July, & August, and will have implications for the potential for us to successfully navigate our upcoming fall performance & competition seasons. As directors & staff, we will continue to do everything in our influence to safeguard the well-being of our students and the communities we serve. Thank you!