

## **COVID-19 Work & Safety Plan for Rehearsals**

### **Guiding Principles:**

- 1) This Work and Safety Plan is for rehearsal activities under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's MI Safe Start Plan.
- 2) Rehearsal activities covered under this plan include:
  - \*Musicians (wind, brass, and string instruments),
  - \*Theatrical speaking voice (phonation),
  - \*Singing with or without microphones,
    - \*under the arts disciplines of **choral singing, opera, and musical theatre**
  - \*Dance.
- 3) SMTD has developed our work plans around activities rather than individual buildings because the spaces in our buildings are multi-use.
- 4) Safeguarding the health of students, faculty, and staff is of paramount importance.

## **I. Workplace Requirements**

### **1. Personnel plan to reduce density**

#### **A) Instrumental rehearsals**

- (1) String players will be placed six feet apart.
- (2) Wind and brass players will be placed 12 feet apart. The use of bell masks is required.
- (3) Conductors, who remain in one place but who are breathing and using their arms vigorously, will be placed at least 12 feet away from any performer and separated from them with plexiglass screens.

#### **B) Choral, musical theatre, opera, and theatre rehearsals**

- (1) Each performer will be placed in an inner square of 6 by 6 feet (also known as "the acting area"). This acting area shall be taped to the rehearsal room floor. Each square will be 12 feet from each other. This way, each performer will be allowed to move within a playing area of 36 sq. ft. and still be 12 feet away from other performers moving within their squares.
- (2) For choral, musical theatre, opera, and theatre rehearsals without the need for movement, performers may be placed 12 feet apart.
- (3) Directors, stage managers, and coach/accompanists, all who work seated, will be spaced at least 6 feet apart along the walls of each space.
- (4) Conductors, who remain in one place but who are breathing vigorously, will be placed at least 12 feet away from any performer.

#### **C) Dance rehearsals**

Choreographers may choose Option A or B, depending upon their needs for movement work or for barre work.

##### Option A:

- (1) Each dancer will be placed in an inner square of 6 by 6 feet (also known as "the acting area"). This acting area shall be taped to the rehearsal room floor.



Each square will be 12 feet from each other. This way, each dancer will be allowed to move within a playing area of 36 sq. ft. and still be 12 feet away from other dancers moving within their squares.

- (2) No contact or close dancing is permitted. Floor work is permitted.
- (3) Stage managers and accompanists, all who work seated, will be spaced at least 6 feet apart along the walls of each space.
- (4) Choreographers may move around the rehearsal space to direct movement but must maintain social distancing of 6 feet. Touching is not permitted.
- (5) Masks are required at all times; see II.1.A below.

Option B:

- (1) Each dancer will be placed 12 feet apart.
- (2) No contact or close dancing is permitted. Floor work is permitted.
- (3) Stage managers and accompanists, all who work seated, will be spaced at least 6 feet apart along the walls of each space.
- (4) Choreographers may move around the rehearsal space to direct movement but must maintain social distancing of 6 feet. Touching is not permitted.
- (5) Masks are required at all times; see II.1.A below.

D) See ground plans with social distancing drawings for our proposed room occupancy limits.

E) Visitors will not be allowed into rehearsals, with the exception of department chairs and faculty/staff with direct business related to the rehearsals.

F) Performers shall not be allowed to congregate in common areas or in hallways when they are not rehearsing. Social distancing of at least six feet apart should be maintained.

## 2. Rehearsal and “Room-Resting” Periods

G) Instrumental rehearsals

- (1) A rehearsal period should last no more than 40 minutes.
- (2) For ensembles that include wind and brass players, a room vacancy of 20 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.
- (3) For ensembles that remain fully masked, a room vacancy of 10 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.

H) Choral, musical theatre, opera, and theatre rehearsals

- (1) A rehearsal period should last no more than 40 minutes.
- (2) A room vacancy of 20 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.

I) Dance rehearsals

- (1) A rehearsal period should last no more than 40 minutes.
- (2) A room vacancy of 20 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.

## 2. Dedicated Entry Point

Most of the rehearsal spaces have just one entry point. Stage managers will stagger the call times of each performer in order to eliminate congestion at the entrances of the rehearsal spaces. In the case of musical ensembles, call times will be staggered by section.

### 3. Daily Screening Protocol

- A) Stage managers will start each rehearsal with a reminder that any cast members who are feeling unwell, for whatever reason, should stay at home or if they start to feel unwell during rehearsal, should leave the room immediately.

### 4. Testing, Contact Tracing and Notification

- A) The names, addresses, and contact information of performers, crew members, and artistic staff are routinely collected.

### 5. On-site Supervisors

- A) In order to de-densify SMTD buildings for classes and to allow students to take their classes, rehearsals for Dance, Theatre, Musical Theatre, and Opera will need to take place during their traditional evening hours. As such, there will be on-site, public-health supervisors for evening shifts for each building in which rehearsals take place. Hired student staff, who normally set up and take down equipment, will be asked to assist with equipment disinfection (spray bottles or hand wipes).
- B) At the start of each rehearsal process, the on-site supervisor will give a safety briefing. Depending upon the public-health circumstances of the campus and production, more frequent briefings may be necessary.

## II. Health and Safety Measures

### 1. Masks

- A) Unless otherwise noted, every person involved in rehearsals must wear a face mask or face covering.
- B) String players – will wear masks at all times.
- C) Wind and brass players – will wear masks at all times except when actively playing. This means that they should go to their chairs wearing masks, play without, and then depart wearing masks.
- D) Actors, singers, & dancers -- Regarding the use of facial coverings, we realize that masks may inhibit a performer's vocal ability, as well as hide their full range of facial expression. On the other hand, the balance of scientific data supports the value of masks in reducing the risk of transmission in community settings. Reducing the risk of transmission is important not only to safeguard the health of the individuals involved in a production, but also to reduce the risk that a production may have to be cancelled due to community spread. With these considerations in mind, our plan requires that masks be worn in rehearsal at all times for all performers and crew members.
- E) Stage directors and stage managers; conductors in staging rehearsals – will wear masks at all times.

- F) Conductors in front of musical ensembles – will wear masks at all times.
  - G) A supply of masks will be kept by stage managers and orchestral staff in case anyone in the company has forgotten their mask.
2. Touching, whether among performers or by artistic staff to adjust blocking, will not be permitted.
  3. Floor work for dance is permitted.
  4. Everyone who participates in a rehearsal (performers, conductors, director, stage managers, etc.) will be required to wash their hands with soap and water before and after every rehearsal.
  5. Hand sanitizer with alcohol content greater than 60% will be available at the door to each rehearsal room and in a spot within each room.
  6. Safety glasses will be made available to anyone who wishes to use these pieces of PPE and become their personal property. The safety glasses will be for the sole use of the requestor throughout the rehearsal and performance engagement. Safety glasses shall not be shared. The requestor will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their glasses.
  7. The CDC poster to *Stop the Spread of Germs* will be posted in each rehearsal room. In addition, production-specific signs with appropriate public-health advisories may also be posted as needed.
  8. Stage managers will include any public-health concerns in their nightly rehearsal reports, which go to upper management and are read the next morning.
  9. Every cast member or musician will be given their own script and score with their names marked on the materials. They will be told not to share, given the risk of droplets on the materials.
  10. Given the short duration of rehearsals under this plan compared to traditional rehearsal times, breaks should not be necessary. However, if any breaks are granted, performers will not be allowed to congregate together in a clump but shall need to remain socially distanced at 6 feet.
  11. Given the short duration of rehearsals under this plan compared to traditional rehearsal times, rehearsal refreshments should not be necessary. However, if the occasion arises, any rehearsal refreshments will be individually packaged or bottled. There will be no self-serve food or beverages.
  12. For any brass or wind players who may have condensation accumulated in their instruments during playing, receptacles or absorbent pads will be placed next to each

player's chair. Letting the condensation drop on the floor is prohibited. Players will remove their own receptacles or absorbent pads at the end of rehearsal and dispose in trash containers. Players will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after disposing of these materials.

### 13. Disinfection

- A) Each participant in a rehearsal will be asked to disinfect the items that they will touch or have touched in their "personal zone," such as a chair, table top or music stand, with a disinfectant wipe.
- B) Musicians will be asked to use a disinfectant wipe before and after rehearsal on common SMTD instruments which are left in the room, such as pianos and percussion instruments.
- C) High touch, common areas such as door knobs, push plates, light switches, and will be cleaned and disinfected daily by UM custodial staff. Dance barres will be disinfected by SMTD.
- D) Hand and furniture props should be disinfected before and after each rehearsal by assigned SMTD staff, whether by wipes or spray bottle as appropriate.

## III. Exposure Determination

SMTD has gleaned as much of the latest scientific and medical advice as we can regarding how people in the performing arts can return to work safely. SMTD has surveyed emerging safety practices in both professional and educational performing arts. However, there is much that remains unclear about how COVID-19 may or may not be transmitted by various activities in the performing arts. Anecdotally, there is more and more indication that airborne respiratory particles are a likely means of transmission of COVID-19. Since there is not enough scientific evidence to develop a safety plan that would bring the risk to zero, this plan culls safety points from various sources in order to mitigate risks in as many ways as can be imagined. In instances where clear consensus on best practice has not been reached, SMTD has decided to err on the side of caution with the safety of our students, faculty, and staff held as first priority.

### Rehearsal spaces:

- o Hankinson Rehearsal Hall – the room is 3340 sq. feet. The proposed occupancy for orchestral rehearsals is 50 people (1 conductor @ 144 sq. ft., 30 strings at 36 sq. ft, 13 Woodwinds/Brass @144 sq. ft., 2 percussion @ 144 sq. ft., .2 misc. players at 36 sq. feet). The proposed occupancy for band rehearsals is 26 (1 conductor @ 144 sq. ft., 21 Woodwinds/Brass @144 sq. ft., 4 misc. players at 36 sq. feet.).
- o Keverson Rehearsal Hall - the room is 2,800 sq. feet. The proposed occupancy for orchestral rehearsals is 40 people. (1 conductor @ 144 sq. ft., 24 strings at 36 sq. ft, 11 Woodwinds/Brasswinds @144 sq. ft., 4 misc. players at 36 sq. feet). The proposed occupancy for band rehearsals is 22 (1 conductor @ 144 sq. ft., 17 Woodwinds/Brass @144 sq. ft., 4 misc. players at 36 sq. feet.).

- Stamps Auditorium – the stage is 820 sq. feet. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is: 5 max
- Britton Recital Hall -- the stage is 690 sq. feet. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is: 4 max
- McIntosh Theatre -- the stage is 1,350 sq. feet. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is: 9 max
- Newman Studio – 2880 sq. footage. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is likely 6 performers + 3 additional instructors and staff, for 9 total.
- Towsley Studio – 2880 sq. footage. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is likely 6 performers + 3 additional instructors and staff, for 9 total.
- Studio Two – 2860 sq. footage. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is likely 6 performers + 3 additional instructors and staff, for 9 total.
- Power Center Rehearsal Room -- 2480 sq. footage. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is likely 6 performers + 3 additional instructors and staff, for 9 total.
- Dance Department -
  - Studio A - 2520 sq. ft. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is 17 max.
  - Studio B - 1176 sq. ft. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is 8 max.
  - Studio C - 864 sq. ft. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is 6 max.
  - Studio D - 1980 sq. ft. The proposed occupancy for rehearsals is 13 max.

Please note that some of these spaces are used for multiple activities such as classes and public performances. Different work plans will address these different safety considerations.