

**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**COVID-19 Work & Safety Plan for Classes**

Date: Revisions to original plan were reviewed and approved by EHS on February 24, 2021.  
Department: School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Guiding Principles:

- 1) This Work and Safety Plan is for teaching activities under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's MI Safe Start Plan.
- 2) Class activities covered under this plan include:
  - \*Academic Classes
  - \*Private Instruction (one on one)
  - \*Private Instruction (with accompanist)
  - \*Studio Classes and Masterclasses
  - \*Auditions
  - \*Practice (individual)
  - \*Practice (chamber)
- 3) We have developed our work plans around activities rather than individual buildings because we seek specific public-health guidance on these activities, especially since 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) Academic Classes

- (1) All individuals would be placed six feet apart.
- (2) Instructors, who remain in one place but who are speaking and breathing more vigorously, will be placed at least 12 feet away from any other individual.

#### B) Private Instruction (one on one teaching of musical instruments and voice)

- (1) For string players and piano students, instructor and student would be placed six feet apart. If there is an accompanist involved in these lessons, then the accompanist must be seated 6 feet away from both instructor and student.
- (2) Wind and brass players would be placed 12 feet apart. The use of bell masks is required.
- (3) For choral, musical theatre, opera, theatre instruction, and any other instruction involving the forceful expulsion of air, each instructor and student must be placed 9 feet apart. If there is an accompanist involved in these lessons, then the accompanist must be seated at least 9 feet away from both instructor and student. The use of masks is required.
- (4) Please note: For safety reasons, there is a difference in the social distancing requirements between rehearsals taking place in large & tall spaces versus smaller faculty studios.

#### C) Studio Classes and Masterclasses

- (1) The onstage instructor, student and accompanist shall adhere to all spacing guidelines outlined for private instruction above.
- (2) The offstage students, seated in the audience section of the hall, will maintain 6 feet of distance at all times, and will be approved for occupancy based upon the COVID-19 Work & Safety Plan for Rehearsals and Performances.

Ⓓ) Dance Instruction

- (+) Each dancer will be placed 9 feet apart.
  - (a) No contact or close dancing is permitted. Floor work is permitted.
  - (b) An accompanist, who works seated, will be spaced at least 6 feet apart from anyone else who is seated.
  - (c) Choreographers may move around the rehearsal space to direct movement but should maintain social distancing of 6 feet. Touching is not permitted.

E) Auditions

- (1) Remote and pre-recorded auditions will be the recommended format.
- (2) Should any auditions need to be held in a live format, all adjudicators will sit at least 6 feet apart and wear masks at all times. They will be seated at least 9 feet away from the auditioning students.

F) Practice (individual)

- (1) Practice rooms that are less than 72 square feet will be approved for single occupancy only.

G) Practice (chamber)

- (1) A chamber practice room must be no less than 175 square feet and must allow each string/percussion player to be 6 feet apart. Wind/brass players and singers will be assigned larger classrooms and rehearsal halls for their chamber rehearsals, with occupancy based upon the COVID-19 Work & Safety Plan for Rehearsals.

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

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

2. Class and “Room-Resting” Periods

A) Academic Classes

- (1) Classes should last no more than 50 minutes.
- (2) A room vacancy of 10 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.
- (3) Students and faculty must remain masked at all times.

B) Private Instruction (one on one)

- (1) Instruction should last no more than 50 minutes.
- (2) A room vacancy of 10 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange, and the instructor will vacate the room during this time.
- (3) Students and instructors will remain masked at all times, when not actively playing a woodwind or brass instrument.

C) Private Instruction (with accompanist)

- (1) Instruction should last no more than 50 minutes.
- (2) A room vacancy of 10 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange, and the instructor will vacate the room during this time.

- (3) Students, instructors, and accompanists will remain masked at all times when not actively playing a woodwind or brass instrument.
- D) Studio Classes and Masterclasses
  - (1) Classes should last no more than 100 minutes.
  - (2) A room vacancy of 20 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.
- E) Auditions
  - (1) An audition window should last no more than 100 minutes, with no more than 20 students assigned to that window.
  - (2) A room vacancy of 20 minutes is required to allow for adequate air exchange.
- F) Practice (individual)
  - (1) Individual practice rooms can be used for no more than 90 minutes and then require a vacancy of 30 minutes.
  - (2) Individual grand piano practice rooms may be used for longer than 90 minutes, but will still require 30 minutes rest between students.
  - (3) Unless actively playing a woodwind or brass instrument, masks must be worn at all times.
- G) Practice (chamber)
  - (1) Individual practice rooms can be used for no more than 90 minutes and then require a vacancy of 30 minutes.

### 3. 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 disinfection (spray bottles or wipes).

## II. Health and Safety Measures

### 1. Masks

- A) Unless otherwise noted, every person involved in classes 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 instruction area 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. With these considerations in mind, our plan requires that masks be worn in class at all times for all students and faculty members.
- A) Masks are required for persons who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, or for persons who have suffered from COVID-19 and have come out of quarantine. All persons must follow current U-M mask protocols.

2. Touching, whether among performers or by artistic staff to adjust blocking, will not be permitted.
3. Floor work in dance is permitted.
4. Hand sanitizer with alcohol content greater than 60% will be available at the door to each class room and in a spot within each room.
5. The UM 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.
6. 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.
7. Disinfection
  - A) Each participant in a class 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) Students will be asked to use a disinfectant wipe before and after class 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 dance barres will be disinfected daily by UM custodial staff.
  - D) Hand and furniture props should be disinfected before each class with a spray bottle by the instructor.

### III. Exposure Determination

We have 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. We have 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, we have decided to err on the side of caution with the safety of our students, faculty, and staff held as first priority.

#### Class spaces:

- Faculty Offices (Large) – average of 245 square feet
- Faculty Offices (Small) – average of 180 square feet
- Classrooms – average of:

- Moore 1<sup>st</sup> Floor—548 square feet
- Moore 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor—839 square feet (large); 592sq ft (small)
- Stearns Classroom—1,081 square feet
- Burton Tower—795 square feet (large); 495sq ft (small)
- Walgreen—1,898 square feet (large); 462sq ft (small)
- Practice Rooms – average of 45 – 65 square feet
- Watkins Lecture Hall – 25% of 88 seats is 22 seats
- Cady Room – 1,483 square feet.