

COVID-19 Summer Marching Band Practices and Rehearsals

UIL schools may, but are not required to, begin Summer Marching Band Practices and Rehearsals on June 8, 2020 under the requirements described below. UIL will continue to work with state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any potential modifications.

Deciding Whether to Offer In-Person Practices and Rehearsals

Schools should take their local context into account when deciding whether to offer summer practices and rehearsals on campus by monitoring the situation on the [Texas Department of State Health Services dashboard](#). Schools should follow all local and state requirements when considering Marching Band practices and rehearsals.

Requirements for All Practices and Rehearsals

Consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring health protocols are being successfully implemented and followed. Schools must follow all requirements of state and local authorities in addition to the requirements below:

- Attendance at practices and rehearsals must be optional for students and in compliance with the rules for Summer marching band practices and rehearsals. In addition to on-campus options, schools should consider providing students guidance for practicing at home or remotely away from school. This can include virtual practices, emailed or otherwise electronically delivered practice instructions, or any delivery model approved by the local school district.
- Attendance records shall be kept, however, students shall not be required or allowed to make up missed days or practices.
- Students should report to practices and rehearsals in proper attire and immediately return home to change clothes or shower at the end of the session.
- During practices and rehearsals, staff must ensure appropriate social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures are implemented.
- Schools must have hand sanitizer or hand-washing stations readily available in the practice and rehearsal area. Students and staff should be encouraged to use it frequently.
- All surfaces in practice and rehearsal areas must be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
- No clothing or towels may be laundered on site or shared during practices and rehearsals.
- There can be no shared water or food.
- Before the start of summer practices and rehearsals, and at the start of every week of summer practices and rehearsals, schools should consider pre-screening all students for

COVID symptoms that they or others living in their house may experience. This can be completed by phone prior to the first day of practices or rehearsals, in person or in writing. Students and staff must self-screen every day for COVID-19 symptoms for themselves and family members. Schools should consider taking the temperature of each student each day at the start of the session, if possible.

- Schools should plan for entry and exit procedures that reduce the number of students and parents congregating outside and/or mixing around the practice areas and parking areas. Consider staggering start and end times, assigning students to entries and exits to ensure even distribution of students entering/exiting at each entry point, providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six feet apart outside the entrance.
- If the school is planning to offer transportation for summer activities, schools should follow all TEA guidance and local guidance related to such transportation.
- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance from all sides when not actively practicing or rehearsing. When actively practicing and rehearsing, students and staff must maintain at least ten feet of distance from all sides. Schools should consider requiring students who are not actively practicing to wear cloth face masks.
- Indoor practices and rehearsals can be conducted up to a maximum of 25% capacity.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Any equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before and after each use. If a student uses a piece of equipment, that equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before another student uses it. Schools should limit the use of equipment to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

* Schools should consider having students remain with a single group or cohort to minimize the number of students and staff that must isolate if a case is confirmed. See **Positive Cases and Staff or Students Showing COVID Symptoms** at the bottom of this document.

*Marching Band Activities Conducted **Outdoors***

Risk Mitigation

- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance from all sides when not actively practicing or rehearsing. When actively practicing and rehearsing, students and staff must maintain at least ten feet of distance from all sides when possible.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Students may be placed in working groups no larger than 15 total students. Each working group should maintain appropriate distance from other working groups.

- Any equipment, such as keyboard instruments, should be regularly disinfected during practice sessions. This equipment should not be shared between groups. After a group has used such equipment, that equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before being used by a different group.

*Marching Band Activities Conducted **Indoors***

Risk Mitigation

- Students and staff must maintain at least six feet of distance from all sides when not actively practicing or rehearsing. When actively practicing or rehearsing, students and staff must maintain at least ten feet of distance from all sides when possible.
- Indoor practices and rehearsals can be conducted up to a maximum of 25% capacity.
- Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff.
- Students may be placed in working groups no larger than 10 total students. Each working group should maintain appropriate distance from other working groups.
- Any equipment, such as keyboard instruments, should be regularly disinfected during practice sessions. This equipment should not be shared between groups. After a group has used such equipment, that equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before being used by a different group.

Positive Cases and Staff or Students Showing COVID Symptoms

- If a positive case is identified among a participant in these summer activities, either staff or student, the group to which that staff or student was assigned and in contact with must be removed from the sessions while all members of the group self-isolate. If the confirmed individual regularly had close contact outside a single group, then all of the students and staff with whom the confirmed individual had close contact shall be removed from workouts for two weeks.
 - Schools should consider having students remain with a single group or cohort to minimize the number of students and staff that must isolate if a case is confirmed.
 - For example: If a student in one cohort tests positive for COVID, the student and that one cohort must isolate. If that student was part of several cohorts, then the student and all of the cohorts they were a member of would have to isolate.
- Any staff member or student who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID (listed below) should self-isolate until the below conditions have been met.
 - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may visit when all three of the following criteria are met: at least three days (72

hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or

- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- Any student or staff member living with someone who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID, whether they have a positive COVID test or not, should self-isolate for two weeks. If they do not experience any COVID symptoms during that period, they can return to summer workouts. If they experience symptoms, they must self-isolate until the conditions outlined above have been met.

COVID Symptoms for Screening

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- 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 is a lab confirmed to have COVID-19