

Festival of Winds Statement on Covid-19

As of November 1, 2021. Please watch for updates, which can change at any time.

The CSU Pueblo Covid Response and Planning Team is keenly in touch with local health experts and astutely follows the recommendations and directives that come forward. With specific regard to music making activities, the CSU Pueblo Department of Music is following the models and advice recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations and also the College Band Directors National Association. A peer reviewed published study that has come forward offers general national guidelines, and local mitigations may be adjusted based on community standards and pandemic infection rates. The following link is recommended for more information: <https://www.cbdna.org>

Current Guidelines

Every day when people get up and leave their home, they are taking a risk. It will be for all participating band directors, chaperons, and students to decide their own unique level of risk tolerance, including whether or not they would like to attend the Festival of Winds.

While the state of health affairs appears to be in continuous fluctuation, at the time of the printing of this letter, the following guidelines will be followed for the 2022 Festival of Winds. Please watch for additional future updates as needed, which will be communicated to all participating high school band directors, or respective student chaperons. At this time, the following guidelines are in effect:

1. **Vaccinations.** While university students and employees are required to provide proof of vaccination (or submit an exemption) starting spring semester 2022, visitors to campus will not be required to provide proof of vaccination during your visit to campus. Additional visitors who attend any of the concerts will also not be required to provide proof of vaccination.
2. **Face Masks.** A face mask must be worn at all times when inside buildings, including all university buildings and also at events sponsored by the university, such as the Honor Bands Finalé Concert at Memorial Hall on Saturday afternoon.
 - a. Cloth masks made with MERV13 material or ASTM F2100 (or similar) standard are recommended anytime a person is speaking (or singing). Most surgical style masks achieve these ratings.
 - b. During the activity of playing wind instruments:
 - i. Masks should always be worn on the face, but may be lowered for playing the wind instrument, and replaced when not playing the instrument. (See below regarding flutes and piccolos.) At no time should a person speak (or sing) at a time when they are indoors without a mask covering their mouth and nose.
 - ii. Individuals may (but are not required to) utilize masks that have flaps that provide access for the mouthpiece to be inserted to contact the mouth, and subsequently return to the closed position when the mouthpiece is removed. Sometimes, this kind of mask is equipped with magnets to encourage the closing of the flap after the mouthpiece is removed.
 - iii. Slotted masks for the insertion of a mouthpiece may be used, but are not mandatory. However, there are benefits to both the wearer of the mask and others nearby to always covering the nose and side of the mouth when playing a wind instrument.
 - iv. In many cases, wind instruments will utilize two masks: 1. One with a slotted opening through which the mouthpiece may be inserted; and 2. One that is raised to cover the slotted opening mask when a musician is not playing.
 - c. The transmission of aerosols of any kind - including those infected with Covid 19 - are most common when a wet vibrating surface is exhaled or blown into a given space. This is why the activities of playing a brass instrument (that utilize vibrating moist lips) or most woodwind instruments (that utilize vibrating moist reeds), and also speaking or singing (that utilize vibrating moist vocal cords) are a concern, while lightly whispering or simply being in an indoor space without talking is a lower risk.
 - d. The playing of a flute or piccolo does not necessarily require a moist vibrating surface, therefore the risk of playing these instruments is a lower level risk than other wind instruments. Still, mitigations are encouraged as the air exiting the mouth is warm and moist and can contain aerosols, therefore inserting the mouthpiece of the instrument through a slot (or slots) of a continuously worn mask is encouraged, but not required.

- e. Masks may be removed when on campus, but only when outdoors. No mitigations are needed outside depending on the level of local and state transmission rates.
- 3. **Bell Covers** are to be used anytime a wind instrument is being played.
 - a. Only bell covers that fit over the end of each instrument are necessary. Bell covers that are made with MERV13 material or ASTM F2100 (or similar) standard are recommended. Many surgical style masks achieve these material ratings, and can be affixed to the end of many instruments using a rubber band.
 - b. It is not necessary to cover the full instrument, such as placing a bag around a full woodwind instrument. Although woodwind bags might contribute to mitigation efforts, research has shown that the majority of aerosols exit the instrument from the end of the instrument.
 - c. French Horn players may utilize a hole in their bell cover through which their hand may be inserted for proper playing position.
- 4. **Face Shields and Partitions** inhibit the normal functions of indoor HVAC systems. Therefore they are not required, nor are they recommended, but may be utilized based on the risk tolerance of each individual.
- 5. Wind instrument **rehearsal and performance lengths**
 - a. A minimum indoor air exchange rate of 3 air exchanges per hour are recommended on a national level.
 - b. At CSU Pueblo, our indoor air exchange rates have been calculated at 8 or more air exchanges per hour. Therefore, no time restrictions with regard to rehearsals or performances is warranted.
- 6. **Physical distancing**
 - a. The national recommendation for indoor distancing while engaging in band activities has been reduced to a minimum recommended distance of 3 feet.
 - b. Due to the high level of air exchange rates at CSU Pueblo, it has been determined that no distancing is required while engaging in band activities, yet each individual should attend to their own comfort level with regard to their own risk tolerance.
- 7. **Hygiene and Fluid Containers** for brass instrument musicians
 - a. Good hygiene practices are encouraged, including covering your mouth and face when coughing and sneezing, etc.
 - b. Containing of the elimination of fluids (such as water that is removed from brass instruments) including appropriate elimination of brass fluid is highly recommended.
 - i. Please have all brass instrument players bring along their own small container to collect fluids during rehearsal and performance, and this container should include a lid to securely close the container after use.
 - ii. It is encouraged to include a level of bacteria killing fluid (such as bleach) in the container.
 - iii. When finished with a rehearsal or performance, the container should have a secure cover that can be reattached (such as a screw-top lid) to secure the contents in the container.
 - iv. Under no circumstances should the contents of the container be eliminated in and indoor drinking fountain or bathroom. Instead find a safe location out doors away from standard pedestrian traffic.

Please see these additional resources for more information and occasional updates:

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/5205409/international-coalition-performing-arts-aerosol-study-july-2021-update-final.pdf>