

NAfME-NFHS Guidance Information

- Both groups believe that it is critical to reinforce the continuation of music education as a vital and essential area of study for all children. **Both groups believe strongly in maintaining and fostering band, chorus, orchestra, and all types of music education programs in schools.** As a result, both groups endorsed the [Arts Education Is Essential Statement](#), available for sharing with school principals and endorsed by the major principal associations.
- When it comes to music education, including large group rehearsals, safety for **students and educators is our top priority.**
 - Based upon CDC recommendations regarding group singing, both groups strongly advocate for the safety of students, music teachers, families, and communities. However, there isn't enough valid and qualified research to give guidance on how to return safely to face-to-face full ensemble rehearsals.
 - When it comes to singing specifically there have been several, well-documented events, including in [the U.S., England, Germany, Austria, and South Korea](#), that appear to show an increased risk to viral spread via indoor singing activities over other music activities.
 - Therefore, the following guidance focuses on known safety precautions implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while researchers continue to identify more definitive solutions. Please see:
 - [CDC Recommendations for Community Based Organizations](#)
 - [CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- In July, preliminary results of an [aerosol distribution study](#) are expected to be made available, and both groups plan to update guidance, as necessary, to reflect the findings. Led by a coalition of over 100 music organizations, this aerosol distribution study is systematically examining **the distribution of aerosols to potentially reduce the risk of infection during music making. The study seeks to do so by scientifically determining valid approaches of mitigating risk towards a safe return to the music classroom.**
 - Background information is available here: [Aerosol Distribution study](#)
 - Foundational resources:
 - Access the articles that formed the basis for the Statement of Work for the Aerosol Distribution study that was proposed to the University of Colorado-Boulder Institutional Review Board: [Basis for Work](#)
- For additional COVID-19 Resources music educators, please visit:
 - [NFHS's Performing Arts COVID-19 Resources page](#)
 - [NAfME COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - [Additional articles](#) examining music-making and the spread of COVID-19, including the COVID Airborne Transmission Estimator.