



COVID Safety Procedures for SHS Music

For Band classes we are following the safety procedures as laid out by the Alberta Government ([here](#)) with additional measures as recommended in the studies into aerosol dispersal and wind instrument playing that were carried out over the summer (summarized in the pdf attached below). The Alberta Band Association has links to this information ([here](#)). The safety procedures we are following include:

1. Playing in the civic centre during full band rehearsals to ensure the most air space around each instrumentalist.
2. Rehearsing in small groups (jazz bands and sectionals) in the music portable with air circulation on to ensure proper air cycling.
3. Ensuring a distance of 2 meters between each student (both wind and non-wind instruments).
4. Emptying spit valves onto disposable puppy pads to ensure safety.
5. The purchase of bell covers for brass and woodwinds and Win-d-fenders for flute players. (These are on order and will be used immediately upon receipt from Long & McQuade)
6. Limiting performance time to 30 minutes.
7. No sharing of wind instruments between students and sanitizing percussion instruments that are used between multiple players (parts are arranged to minimize or eliminate the sharing of percussion instruments as much as possible).

The Alberta Government does not require the use of face masks while playing, however I have asked each student who plays a wind instrument (excluding flute as discussed below) to have a second mask with a slit cut where the mouthpiece can be put through when playing. This will help to catch any aerosol dispersion from around the mouthpiece and embouchure, as well as protecting the nose and mouth during inhalation when not playing. Students will switch into this secondary mask at their seat and switch back to their normal face masks at the end of class.

Since flute players can not play with a mask currently, the flute players have been provided with a plexiglass face shield which will catch any particles in the air that are blown past the mouthpiece. In addition to seating arrangement and social distancing, this should account for an extra layer of safety when performing. When the Win-d-fenders arrive, it will allow flute players to wear a mask and play at the same time, which will create a more efficient additional safety measure. Using the Win-d-fender with a mask is a much safer method than the recommendation of using pop-filters (used in recording studios when recording vocalists) as set out by the government.

My number one priority is the safety of the students in the classroom which is why we are taking additional safety precautions above those recommended by the government to ensure that Band is a safe and positive experience for all students involved this year. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me by email at bryan.allsopp@ghsd75.ca and I will do my best to answer them.

Bryan Allsopp
Music Teacher - CMJHS/SHS

