



**Music & Performing Arts Activities for Extracurricular Student Organizations Protocol  
[Updated March 9, 2021]**

*This protocol addresses the ability for existing student organizations to gather and pursue rehearsal opportunities. This proposal does not pertain to academic activities. Beyond the campus community, several professional and overarching arts organizations have taken a variety of perspectives on mitigation measures with regard to the return of music and performing arts activities, and related considerations for audience members.*

Utilizing resources from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), benchmarking of peer, aspirant institutions (including NAC&U and the CCIW), the Minnesota Department of Public Health, and the University of Iowa, below is the proposed plan to reintroduce non-academic Music and Performing Arts Activities for Student Organizations to campus for the second half of the College Spring Semester. The goal is to operate a select student organization/extracurricular program schedule in accordance with College-established guidelines, which are subject to evaluation and adaptation.

A consideration from the IDPH: “The available evidence for COVID-19 transmission from singing or playing instruments is limited. The extent to which group singing or playing of wind instruments increases the risk for COVID-19 transmission remains unclear. However, measures to reduce the potential risk of transmission include organizing sessions to minimize duration of interactions and contact with contaminated objects and surfaces, maintaining physical distancing of at least six feet, utilize source control measures and optimizing ventilation.” Illinois Department of Public Health (2020, September 29). [Interim COVID-19 Music Guidance](#). In person dancing, theater, acting, and general performing arts activities may require close physical contact that may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSO)**

Number in parentheses represents the approximate number of active members or those potentially needing testing as per the below recommended guidance to participate

<b>Singing</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>
Focus (1-5)	Cardinal Dance Company (20)
No Control A Cappella (15-20)	Union (1-5)
One Note Stand A Cappella (15-20)	NCC Underground Swing (12)
Sonata Problem A Cappella (18)	The Company (currently inactive)
Tonacity A Cappella (13)	Untitled (currently inactive)
Voices of Praise (12)	

**General Requirements for COVID-19 Preparedness Plans** (pertains to all in-person functions)

- Participants will always wear face coverings over their nose and mouth. No exceptions.
- Participants will maintain physical distance according to the context-specific guidelines below (never less than 6 feet, and sometimes greater than 12, 15, or 20 feet).
- For music and performing art activities a professional staff or faculty member is required to be in attendance as the supervisor of the event.
- Portable hand sanitizing stations will be available upon request ([maintenance@noctrl.edu](mailto:maintenance@noctrl.edu)).
- Participants are required to follow all College policies and procedures, and their commitment to the #TogetherNC pledge.
- Participants are required to follow all guidelines outlined in this document.

- Activity organizers must complete all items included in the [In-Person Even Agreement](#) and must receive approval from the Office of Student Involvement prior to all in-person activities.
  - The checklist will be located on the College's COVID-19 [Athletics & Campus Events](#) page
  - Responses to the checklist will be moderated, reviewed, and approved by Student Involvement staff
- Participants will be required to acknowledge and submit a waiver for in person participation.
  - See Exhibit A

## Phased Approach

To safely provide music and/or performance-specific extracurricular opportunities for the aforementioned student organizations, any in-person event must occur outdoors (any adaptations to this policy will be communicated by the College's COVID Institutional Response Team). While any College-owned outdoor space can be utilized, the Operations team will establish a location on campus equipped with a canopy to provide additional shelter from weather elements (e.g., excessive sun or rain). Outdoor events will be prohibited in the event of inclement weather (e.g., lightning, heavy rain, high winds) at the discretion of the Campus Safety Department.

## Phase I – Music & Performing Arts Activities for Extracurricular (non-academic) Student Organizations

### Facility Use & Format – Vocal and Instrumental Activities

- Conduct activities outdoors
  - Oesterle Library, Old Main Lawn, Jefferson Lawn, Rall House Lawn, Res Rec/Merner lawn
  - When available and when weather permits
- **One (1)** in-person activity per week, per organization
  - Additional in-person activities can take place, without any music or performing art activities as part of the meeting.
- Regarding physical distancing and positioning during approved activities:
  - Participants must face the same direction.
  - Participants cannot be positioned behind or in-front of each other when singing or playing brass/wind instruments.
  - The following minimum distancing guidelines must be followed:
    - String and percussion instruments – 6 feet
    - Singers/vocalists - 12 feet
    - Brass and woodwinds - 15 feet
    - Conductors (where applicable) - 20 feet from the first row of singers/instrumentalists
- Minimize the number of singers and performers in ensembles whenever possible.
- **NO** external spectators/audience members. Only current campus community members who are required to participate in the College's surveillance testing may be spectators/audience members.
  - Congregational singing, group singing, or other vocal participation by spectators or audience members is prohibited.
  - All spectators/audience members must be a minimum of 20 feet from the first row of singers/instrumentalists.
  - Spectators/audience members are included in the total capacity count. (e.g., space capacity 50 will include all onstage performers, tech support, event staff and spectators/audience). There are no exceptions to this guideline.
- **NO** shared equipment (such as mouthpieces, microphones, or instruments).
- Please note, the above noted guidelines also apply to theater and acting when there is increased vocal projection required more than typical speaking volumes.

## **Guidelines for Vocalists, Brass & Woodwind Musicians**

- Required to wear face coverings while singing (at the cost of the student organization).
  - See Exhibit B for resources for enhanced face coverings options.
- Required to wear face coverings designed to be worn while playing (at the cost of the student organization).
  - See Exhibit B for resources.
- Required to use instrument-specific coverings to reduce droplet spread while playing (at the cost of the student organization).
  - See Exhibit B for resources.

## **Guidelines for Activities with Physical Contact (Dancing, Theater & Acting)**

- Conduct activities outdoors
  - Oesterle Library, Old Main Lawn, Jefferson Lawn, Rall House Lawn, Res Rec/Merner
  - When available and when weather permits
- **One (1)** in-person activity per week per organization
  - Additional in-person activities can take place, without any music or performing art activities as part of the meeting.
- There is no time limitation for these events.
- **NO** external spectators/audience members. Only current campus community members who are required to participate in the College's surveillance testing may be spectators/audience members.
  - Congregational singing, group singing, or other vocal participation by spectators or audience members is prohibited.
  - All spectators/audience members must be a minimum of 20 feet from the first row of singers/instrumentalists.
  - Spectators/audience members are included in the total capacity count. (e.g., space capacity 50 will include all onstage performers, tech support, event staff and spectators/audience). There are no exceptions to this guideline.
- **NO** shared equipment (such as mouthpieces, microphones, or instruments).
- Minimize sharing of high-touch equipment and items such as props, clothing, makeup, etc.
- Implement intermittent breaks after prolonged physical contact (such as formations, partner stunting or dancing) and hand sanitize before changing partner/group work.
- As face coverings remain required, alternatives should be in place for intimate theatrical scenes.

## **THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS APPLY TO ALL GROUPS ADDRESSED IN THIS PROPOSAL (Vocal, Brass, Woodwind, Dance, Theater & Acting)**

### **Testing Strategy**

- Weekly College-operated SHIELD testing is required for all individuals identified in this proposal.
- Participants will be tested 48 hours before their weekly scheduled rehearsal/gathering. (maximum 1 per week)
- Upon signing in for attendance, participants must produce documentation of a negative test to the advisor. This can be done via smart phone or with a printed copy. No test results will be maintained or stored; test results will be shared solely for visual confirmation.
- The advisor and/or student organization president/leader will provide rosters for testing to the Office of Student Involvement.
- The Office of Student Involvement will submit a master roster to the College's Testing Site and will review testing attendance for all compliance and appropriate billing purposes.
- The Office of Student Involvement will receive notification when a student is absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19.

- SHIELD testing costs will be the responsibility of the student organization. The Student Government Association has formally supported the use of student organization budgets toward funding for COVID-19 testing purposes.
  - It is understood that the testing fee is \$20/test
  - Anticipated total number of students per week (beginning March 15, 2021): 200

## Compliance

- The Office of Student Involvement is responsible for recording, maintaining and tracking non-compliance, with support from the appropriate advisor.
- The Office of Student Involvement will utilize the COVID-19 Compliance Form and submit information for non-compliance.
- If the advisor does not confirm the negative test result requirement prior to the start of the activity, the report will be shared with Human Resources for appropriate follow up. All participants are encouraged to report concerns if any of the College's policies, procedures, or protocols are not being followed during an activity.
- The Office of Student Affairs may communicate with the Director of Student Involvement regarding compliance-related concerns that may impact the individual's ability to participate in extracurricular activities.

<b>Compliance Concern</b>	<b>Typical 1<sup>st</sup> Offense Sanctioning for All Students</b>
<b>Failure to participate in College testing</b>	Immediate removal from event and suspension from activity until next scheduled test results received
<b>Event held without prior approval from Student Involvement</b>	Student organization suspension for two weeks
<b>Event held without an advisor or appropriate student-staff member present</b>	Student organization suspension for two weeks
<b>Event is held with spectators/audience and congregational singing, group singing, or chanting by spectators/audience was reported</b>	Student organization suspension for two weeks
<b>Failure to follow College policies and procedures and the #TogetherNC pledge (face covering, physical distancing)</b>	Written warning

## Considerations

- Music activities and performing arts may be suspended if:
  - The College deems appropriate based on other COVID-related factors;
  - An individual extracurricular group has a positivity rate of 5% (that group will temporarily be suspended from participation);
  - An individual extracurricular group fails to follow the guidelines listed in this document (per compliance section above);
  - SHIELD testing was to become unavailable to the campus community.
- If a member of a student organization is fully remote and wishes to return to participate, the student must provide a negative re-entry test consistent with the College's protocols at the beginning of the semester.

## **Exhibit A –Music and Performing Arts Activities for Extracurricular Student Organizations Waiver**

### **RELEASE OF ASSUMPTION AND LIABILITY:**

**In consideration of my participation in North Central College’s Registered Student Organization (RSO) music and performing arts activities, I agree to assume all risks of accident or injuries sustained from whatever cause in connection with my actions, and release North Central College and its officers, agents, and employees from any and all liability for such accident or injury.**

**I understand that North Central College has no provisions for accident/medical insurance for anyone participating in any activity sponsored by the Office Student Involvement’s Extracurricular Activities.**

**I acknowledge participation extracurricular music and performing arts activities is voluntary. I understand that the coronavirus known as Covid-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic and is contagious and can be spread by person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state and local health agencies recommend social distancing and other measures to reduce the spread of the virus. North Central College will conduct various extracurricular activities in accordance with health and safety protocols appropriate for the activity and for the conditions at the time. I understand that participation in activities during the Covid19 pandemic can lead to increased risk of exposure. The College will implement plans to reduce these risks, however, none of these mitigation efforts can guarantee complete safety. Students participating in the activity will be required to follow these protocols and will be immediately removed from the activity if they do not fully comply. I am aware of the health and safety procedures being implemented by the College I have been advised of the risks of participation.**

## EXHIBIT B: RESOURCES & REFERENCES

### Face Covering Resources – Specific to Musical Activities

NOTE: We are not promoting or approving any specific product listed below. We are only providing examples of different products available.

#### Singing/Vocalists

- Broadway Relief Project: The Singer's Mask ([www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask](http://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask)) □ My Music Folders: Resonance Singer's Mask with disposable biofilters ([www.mymusicfolders.com/product/resonance-singers-mask-with-disposable-biofilters/](http://www.mymusicfolders.com/product/resonance-singers-mask-with-disposable-biofilters/))
- Clear Mask ([www.theclearmask.com/product](http://www.theclearmask.com/product)) Face coverings for wind instrument musicians

#### Wind & Brass Instrument Musicians

- United Sounds overlapping masks: <http://www.unitedsound.org/mask> - available from the following vendors; [Groth Music](#), [West Music](#), and [Band Shoppe](#).
- Specific for flutists: [ChopSlot](#), [Cousin's Concert Attire](#), [Hickey's Music Center](#)

### Bell Cover Resources – Specific to Wind and Brass Instruments

- Instrument bell covers act as a mask for the instrument. The covers are easy to apply to the instrument and can be machine washed. Double layer covers meet various recommendations for blocking aerosol droplets. These can be purchased from the following vendors; [Stanbury Uniforms](#), [Stretchable Covers](#), and [Groth Music](#).

### Instrument Disinfecting Guidelines

- National Association for Music Education, (2020, April 30). COVID-19 Instrument Cleaning Guidelines. <https://nafme.org/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>
- Steinway & Sons (2021) How to Clean Your Piano. <https://www.steinway.com/news/features/utility/cleaning-your-piano>
- American String Teachers Association (2020) Instrument Cleaning Tips. [https://www.astastrings.org/Web/Resources/Instrument\\_Cleaning\\_Tips.aspx](https://www.astastrings.org/Web/Resources/Instrument_Cleaning_Tips.aspx)
- Yamaha (N.D.) Product Safety Information\_Disinfection Safety Information. (Pianos, Drums, Keyboards, Synthesizers, Guitars, Digital Pianos, Percussion, Pro Audio, Strings, Brass & Woodwinds). <https://usa.yamaha.com/support/safety/index.html>
- National Association of Music Merchants (2020) COVID-19 and Instrument Cleaning. <https://www.namm.org/covid-19/articles/covid-19-and-instrument-cleaning>

### References

- [Campus Facilities Team Benchmarking](#), February 2021
- Minnesota Department of Health (2021, February 12). Music Activities and Performances During COVID-19. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf>
- Illinois Department of Public Health (2020, September 29). Interim COVID-19 Music Guidance. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/Music%20Guidance-FINAL.9.29.2020.pdf>
- University of Iowa (2020, August 14). School of Music COVID-19 Policies <https://music.uiowa.edu/school-music-covid-19-policies>
- National Institutes of Health Study (2021, January 14). COVID-19: Impact on the Musician and Returning to Singing; A Literature Review <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7808728/>