



Forney ISD Fine Arts

COVID-19 Fall Information Guide

Updated 8.13.2020

OVERVIEW

The health and safety of our fine arts students and staff is our top priority. The following guidelines are based on what is currently known about COVID-19. The Forney ISD Fine Arts Department designed this guidance to help prevent exposures to COVID-19 for all fine arts students. Guidance for best practices for our fine arts classrooms and events will be updated as additional information becomes available.

GOALS

1. Follow all UIL Guidelines and FISD regulations
2. Implement routine and enhanced cleaning and sanitization measures.
3. Employ strategies to minimize close interactions and reduce risk for all participants.
4. Communicate and enact plans with cohesive standards through all facilities and practices.
5. Ensure all fine arts staff have been properly trained to execute this plan daily on campus.
6. Communicate plans effectively to all students, parents and stakeholders.

REQUIRED SCREENINGS

FISD Fine Arts students will self-screen according to FISD and UIL Guidelines. Students with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 symptoms must stay at home and may only return to practice when UIL and FISD return to school criteria have been met.

FACE COVERINGS

Fine Arts students are required to wear face coverings in compliance with UIL and FISD guidelines, including while in rehearsal/practices, when entering and exiting facilities, and in dressing areas and on buses. This includes any time 6-feet of personal space is not possible.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- No sharing of food or water will be permitted.
- Each student should provide their own personal water container.
- Students should provide their own towel for dance, band, cheer and other activities.



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FINE ARTS PROGRAM SPECIFIC GUIDELINE EXAMPLES

CHOIR

- Students shall wear a mask and face shield the entire class period/rehearsal.
- When wearing a mask, the nose must be covered at all times.
- It is highly suggested that students provide a blue, surgical mask for classroom use.
- Chairs and music stands will be used at the teacher's discretion.
- No choral riser configurations or arch set-ups are permitted. Risers will be stored away for the time being to allow for proper spacing of students and to avoid the spread of aerosols. Flat rows are best.
- Students should not share lavalier or other voice amplification equipment. In the event that a student would have to share a microphone/headset, proper cleaning and sanitization of all parts of the equipment are required. <https://www.shure.eu/musicians/discover/educational/keeping-your-microphone-clean>
- Once a safety protocol is put in place for private lesson instruction, lessons can resume. It is recommended at this time that private lesson instruction continue virtually.

DANCE

- Masks will be worn at teacher's discretion based on specific dance/activity and attendance per class.
- Students are encouraged to catch their breath completely before putting masks back on.
- Student dancers should provide their own water bottle labeled with their entire name.
- Student dancers should supply their own personal towel that may be sent home and washed daily.
- Consider entrances and exits carefully in the spatial design of routines to ensure proper social distancing.
- Once a safety protocol is put in place for private technique instruction, technique classes can resume. It is recommended at this time that technique classes continue virtually.

VISUAL ART

- Masks will be worn at all times in grades 3-12. Pre K-2 will be highly encouraged.
- Sharing of art supplies is highly discouraged.
- Art supplies must be cleaned in between use from one student to the next if sharing is taking place.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC

- Singing in the classroom should be kept to a minimum.
- Masks will be worn at all times.
- Students will face the same direction in flat rows.
- Shared of instruments/equipment is highly discouraged.
- Music supplies must be cleaned in between use from one student to the next if sharing is taking place.
- District will provide sets of instruments to reduce exposure during a regular school day.
- Grade level programs will take place once a procedure is in place to ensure safety for all.



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CHEER

- Masks will be worn when not actively participating in movement based activities. Masks will be worn anytime cheering is occurring.
- Students are encouraged to catch their breath completely before putting masks back on.
- Students should provide their own water bottle labeled with their entire name.
- Students should supply their own personal towel that may be sent home and washed daily.
- Consider entrances and exits carefully in the spatial design of routines to ensure proper social distancing.

THEATRE

- Masks will be worn at all times. When wearing a mask, the nose must be covered at all times.
- Face shields may be required when performance standards necessitate performers coming in close contact with each other.
- No clothing or costume materials may be laundered on-site or shared during rehearsals/performances.
- All surface areas of furniture should be wiped down at the beginning and end of each use or covered in a protective cover that can be sanitized after each use.
- Social distancing protocols should be used when staging furniture or other set items.
- Students should not share lavalier or other voice amplification equipment. In the event that a student would have to share a microphone/headset, proper cleaning and sanitization of all parts of the equipment are required. <https://www.shure.eu/musicians/discover/educational/keeping-your-microphone-clean>
- Classroom and scene shop supplies should be disinfected before and after use. Consider checking out the use of classroom supplies to students while in class, keeping a record of tool and equipment use.
- All equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before another student uses it.
- Production check-lists and cue sheets should be laminated for easy disinfecting.

BAND

- Students will face the same direction in flat rows. As guidance is updated, this procedure will be adjusted.
- Wind instrument musicians will be expected to wear a mask when not playing.
- Percussionists will wear a mask indoors/outdoors when not physically moving.
- Guard members will be expected to wear a mask when not actively moving.
- When actively participating in marching movement, students may lower their mask below their chin.
- While receiving instruction, masks must be covering their nose/mouth.
- Students are encouraged to catch their breath completely before putting masks back on.
- Marching band students should provide their own water bottle labeled with their entire name.
- Consider entrances and exits carefully in marching design/formation to ensure proper social distancing.
- No release of spit valves is allowed on bare floors or carpet.
- Outdoor rehearsals are ideal and are considered a best practice.
- Bell covers on instruments are highly recommended.
- Indoor rehearsals are permitted when guidelines and masks can be employed.
- Once a safety protocol is put in place for private lesson instruction, lessons can resume. It is recommended at this time that private lesson instruction continue virtually.



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AUDIENCE GUIDELINES

- Audience members must wear face coverings in accordance with Texas Executive Order GA-29.
- Audience members may be screened for temperature and symptoms.
- Audience members will only be able to leave the performance to access restrooms or concessions; walkways and congregational areas will be restricted.
- Designated entrances and exits will be determined for audience members.
- Online ticket sales are recommended. Details regarding livestream performances and online ticket sales will be shared forthcoming.
- Seating arrangements must comply with social distancing measures as dictated by state/local regulations. Social distancing between groups is required and **to not exceed 50%** of the facility's indoor occupancy limits. *(as of July 2020)* A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
- Performing Arts Center lobby areas will be opened early to allow for social distancing.
- Audience members will not be allowed in backstage areas, dressing rooms or holding spaces.
- Select FISD Fine Arts events may be livestreamed for at-home audiences.
- Additional specifics may be provided prior to each fine arts event.