

PERFORMING ARTS: May 1, 2021 Update

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE: Governor's Order 72 – Amended 6 (Amended 7 becomes effective May 15, 2021)

Highlights:

- 1-Ensure signs are posted (Covid protocol check for entry; Health reminders with physical distancing and masks; Indoor areas stating Patrons must wear a mask in accordance with Sixth Amended Order 72; signs about queue line directions)
- 2-Capacity indoors: 50% of lowest capacity or 1000 max
- 3-Capacity outdoors: 50% lowest capacity
- 4-Six feet between spectators
- 5-Six feet maintained between performers. Ten feet between performers singing or playing a wind/brass instrument
- 6-Spectators must wear masks over their nose and mouth in accordance with section II of the Sixth Amendment Executive Order 72
- 7-No social congregation periods before/during/after event
- 8-Disinfecting plan in place at site between performances

>New Governor's Order 72 (***Amended #6***) – See specific guidance:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>

Previous Guidance

Performing Arts Return to Activity

Updated March 29, 2021

Based upon the Governor's *Executive Order 72* and the fourth amendment issued on March 23, 2021, the following return to participate with the performing arts programs within CCPS have been coordinated to align with this new guidance, **effective April 1, 2021**.

>New Governor's Order 72 (***Amended #4***)

While the 17 page amendment #4 outlines a variety of areas, the most pertinent for this update were to be found within Item 10 (*Entertainment Venues*, previously located in Item 12 of Amendment 3) and in sections with unique exceptions for mask wearing as well as the additional flexibility provided *educational institutions* when engaged in an instructional opportunity for students (*The presence of more than 50 individuals indoors, or 100 individuals outdoors, performing functions of their employment or assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a "gathering"*).

Based on this guidance:

Key items reviewed within this Update:

- Governor’s Executive Order 72 (Amendment 4): outdoor mask use: All individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older must cover their mouth and nose with a **mask**, as described and recommended by the CDC, when outdoors and unable to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from other individuals who are not Family members as defined in **section I**, subsection D, paragraph 2.
- Governor’s Executive Order 72 (Amendment 4): indoor mask use: All individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older must cover their mouth and nose with a mask as described and recommended by the CDC if they are in an indoor setting shared by others. This requirement applies to state and local government settings
- VDH guidance (VDH website) exceptions with mask use example: While playing a musical instrument, when wearing a mask would inhibit a person’s ability to play the instrument (e.g., wind instruments) **and** 10 feet of distance is maintained from others, for both indoor and outdoor settings.
- Governor’s Executive Order 72 (Amendment 4): ***The presence of more than 50 individuals indoors, or 100 individuals outdoors, performing functions of their employment or assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a “gathering.”***
- Governor’s Executive Order 72 (Amendment 4): Individuals assembled in an educational instructional setting adhere to the applicable physical distancing and sanitization plan and guidelines of the relevant governing body or educational entity
- Governor’s Executive Order 72 (Amendment 4): total number of ***spectators indoors*** cannot exceed the ***lesser of 30 percent of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy, if applicable, or 500 persons. The total number of spectators for outdoor venues cannot exceed 30 percent of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy.***
- Governor’s Executive Order 72 (Amendment 4): ***“Educational instructional settings” include, but are not limited, to a program*** 12 sponsored, organized, and implemented by an educational institution to award a degree or diploma to its students for the successful completion of a course of study from the educational institution

While each school must develop its own site plans (based upon capacity limits and programs by site), these are written general guidance for CCPS with return to participation for performing arts classes to update guidance previously shared (in February, 2021).

With each school location, the Principal is tasked with verifying numbers for appropriate capacity/spacing for each performing arts group and spectators per location for each school with each performing arts instructor by site (accomplished in collaboration with the principal at each school and the appropriate level leadership director) before events are allowed to take place. Each school should maintain this record in their office.

OUTDOOR SETTINGS SPECIFICS:

BAND (used as the base example):

Outdoor setting (school day or non-spectator student-only practice)

>Daytime instructional rehearsals (student participants only) allows for band members to be spaced at 10 foot spacing (wind instruments) and 6 foot spacing (non-wind instruments) without mask ONLY as a function of and *while playing their instruments* as a part of the formal practice and under the direct supervision of the instructor in a stationary manner. (Note: students should place masks on when rehearsal is completed or they are not playing. Percussion should keep mask on at all times in this setting.)

>Playing of music should be stationary (no formal marching actions while playing instruments - with the exception of percussion instruments for movement by cadence into spaces) and any movement must maintain minimum six feet between performers with masks on.

> Communication about expectations with health guidance (face coverings, distance, washing hands and cleaning personal items, etc.) need to be made clear to all parties at the very beginning and continuously throughout – this is everyone’s responsibility to make this a priority and to immediately act upon any individual not following the guidance

>Taping of rehearsals must comply with all copyright procedures

Outdoor setting (Awards recognition band performances with spectators)

>Must be held in stadium setting with fence to monitor and maintain separation between any guests and performers.

>No spectators are to be allowed on the field at any time while the band would be assembled to perform as a group.

>All Participants and Spectators must meet Covid safety protocol screening process for admission to the site. Signs should be placed to encourage social distancing and seating areas should be measured in advance for groups. Admission is based only upon pre-event ticketing (with no new spectators who were not pre-approved admitted at the event itself). Staff must monitor que lines as well as the seating areas to ensure social distancing and mask guidance is followed.

>Designated restrooms (as per stadium use for athletics at each site) process must be instituted.

>Students spaced appropriately on field based upon instrumentation (wind instruments at 10 feet, others at 6 feet) and meet the expectations as per above with rehearsal settings.

>Spectator guidance will comply with Governor’s Order 72, Amendment 4, Section A, Item 10 for performing arts and concert venues. This will include appropriate actions like mandatory face mask use required while in facility, social distance of six feet maintained while entering between parties (family member/household groupings) and at all times while on the facility grounds and seating will be designated with outlined spaced seating areas.

>Capacity limitation for spectators is held to the lower of 30 percent of stadium facility or 750 max (as per *Item 10 Governor Order 72 Amend #4 for outdoor Entertainment venues*) with appropriate spectator seating distance (10 feet between parties as noted above).

>Recognitions will be designed by site in a way that the immediate family/household member may be present with their student when receiving an award while ten foot of distancing is maintained at all times from other parties.

>No congregating afterward with protocols in place at each site for dismissal of students to parent pick-up monitored by staff to ensure social distancing and mask use by all individuals while on school grounds.

ADDITIONAL COURSE NOTES: All of the above items pertain to below performing groups in designated rehearsal areas as well as in designated school site stadium area with performance/awards with spectators and the notes below are for specifics in addition or clarifications for these groups to the above band performance model as described.

OUTDOOR SETTING ORCHESTRA

>For Orchestra (strings and percussion with no brass or wind instruments) allowable for non-mask use with appropriate stationary distance of six feet. Masks may not be removed until all participants are in the designated space six feet apart from any other student performer.

>Six foot distancing is permissible as per outlined notes above for rehearsal and awards/performance settings ONLY for the performers who must remain distanced from any spectator by a fence separation area or performers must keep on masks if no physical barrier to support ten feet (between spectator and performers) is in place

>No sharing of instruments or sheet music between performers while at rehearsals or at performances

OUTDOOR SETTING DANCE

>For dance groups at rehearsals, appropriate ten foot distancing is required between each individual at all times. If dance routines are synchronized to require the same moves with dancers, they may be space at ten feet. If dancers are not synchronized in the same movements, additional space is required to insure that ten foot distancing is not reduced between two dancers at any time.

>Outdoors, dancers may only remove masks after all participants have arrived at their designated locations and they are actively *engaged in physical exercise activity*. Once the directed activity/exercise is over, each dancer must put their mask back on while any verbal direction is given by the instructor.

OUTDOOR SETTING THEATRE

>Theatre students (non-signing drama roles) must also follow all mask and distancing expectations (six foot minimum) for instructional rehearsals outdoors and any performance as so designated with stationary positions assigned to maintain six feet at all times and masks worn at any time not actively engaged with structured and supervised speaking part of performance.

>Six foot distancing is permissible as per outlined notes above for awards/performance settings ONLY for the performers (not spectators/guests) who must remain distanced from any spectator by a fence separation area or performers must keep on masks if no physical barrier to support ten feet (between spectator and performers) is in place.

>Theatre (musical role): For speaking and non-singing portion of performance, see two bullets above. For musical portion, refer to outdoor chorus.

OUTDOOR SETTING CHORUSES

>Choral sing only and not dancing groups: 10 foot distances established and format similar to wind instruments (with band) as it pertains to any rehearsal or performance setting for mask use.

>Sing and movement (Show Choir): Must maintain distance between individual performers while performing at ten foot distancing between each student.

>Distancing expectations similar to dance groups (*above*) with masks use in both rehearsal and outdoor performance setting.

>Musical accompaniment person/group must be separated as a separate pod by ten additional feet from the sing/dance participants and must maintain the social distancing within their group similar to music performance groups.

INDOOR SETTINGS SPECIFICS

(While use of indoor space is permissible, the preference is for events to be held outdoors whenever possible. This complies with the revised VDOE/VDH guidance which states: *During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible.* In addition, indoor sites currently have additional restrictions and capacity limits which must be implemented and followed at each school location.)

Indoors in Auditoriums ONLY:

(Guidance note: Indoor settings all require similar base protocols with monitoring safety measures and MASK USE awareness at all times for participants and any spectators – see notes at the end about signs and postings for facility entry areas-)

-Rehearsals with classes (instructional):

>Numbers and arrangement with space: Similar requirements as above, however, limited by spacing in the location (capacity limits would vary from school to school and would be finalized through the Principal by site with a chart for indoor venues by location before start-up of use and kept for office records as needed by each performing arts group)-

>Masks must be worn at all times by all performers (with singular exception of the musical instrument exception from the Governor's Order with appropriate physical distancing).

>Example of changes approved: A high school auditorium may require students to be distributed for rehearsals across the facility (aisles, chairs) versus all on a stage during a non-spectator practice.

>Example of site number needs: capacity number would be higher in a high school auditorium versus a smaller middle school setting.

>Example of rehearsal space use versus performance/activity based space use: While rehearsals may allow for spacing across an auditorium, when spectators are present students must be returned to separate sectioned area in which to perform (versus mixed within the spectators).

-Performances and Awards Nights are permitted

- >With 30% capacity limits (not to exceed maximum established in Governor Order 72 Amendment #4 Section 10 in a contained auditorium), based on site SEATING capacity space that permits guests standing and seated at a 10 foot distance on all angles between parties at all times with masks on. (NOTE: Any other area not *designated as a secured auditorium*, in order to be considered for utilization must be discussed/approved with the Level Leadership Director before possibility of use and such an area may be held to the indoor social gathering limit for capacity counts and spacing.)
- >An additional measure with distancing indoors that is required is some form of item as a barrier (stanchions, etc.) separating the performers area from any spectator within a facility.
- >The first row of an auditorium should not be used for spectator seating to allow for any emergency movement that may arise with students on a stage area.
- >Student performers should meet up outside with family/guests after performance in an organized manner to eliminate congregating inside the facility.

MASK use is required indoors by all with only exception noted above WHILE performing.

Spectator setting guidance: (Indoors settings):

Pre Performance Setting

- Students need to remain masked and separated while preparing for the function
- Guests should not be permitted into any area with performers getting prepared for a performance
- Spectators should remain outside in vehicles and not be allowed to congregate at entryways or within the facility ahead of the scheduled time for admission and the performance
- All entering students and guests must meet the Covid protocols safety questions (no fever, etc.) before being admitted into the facility by a designated staff member who is present at the check-in area
- Guests should sit only in designated seats with ten foot distance between parties (family/household members) and not move between seating areas
- Promote hand washing and other appropriate safety measures and identify restroom availability and limitations with moving to any other non-designated area within the facility
- Students should be seated in appropriate designated places at six or ten foot distances (based upon the type of event) with a staff member responsible to supervise this movement and seating assignment
- Spectators should not approach the designated area set apart for the performers and the first row of an auditorium should not be used for seating to allow for any safety measures and movement that is needed. Spectators and Performers should be separated by a visible barrier (such as stanchions) with signs indicating not to cross this point

The Performance

- Student performers should not share any materials (sheet music, instruments or other items)
- Student performers should maintain indicated distance (six or ten feet depending on activity) and masks should be worn at all times except where an exception is so defined by the Governor's Order (example: wind instrument player when playing and being seated at a 10 foot distance from all others)
- Conductor's and working designated performance staff shall wear a mask at all times and maintain 10 foot distance from the performers during the performance
- Spectators are to remain in designated seating for the duration of the event

- Seating (Chairs) will be set up to ensure social distancing and students are to maintain appropriate social distance during any necessary movement

Determining Exit Procedures

- Limit access to performance area and have students meet with parents at an exterior point from the auditorium and interior building setting
- Restrict post-concert gatherings
- Monitor all exits to support social distancing
- All areas should be cleaned as per Covid protocols before another group may enter

Note: For Outdoor and Indoor events, plans for the event must be submitted by the principal to the appropriate Secondary Director to verify in advance that all school site safety measures (plans with performers, distancing, masks, rest room use, etc.) and capacity numbers meet the expectations.

Schools and signage:

Per current Virginia Phase III Guidelines, post the following at outdoor venues:

>Post signage at the entrance that states that no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, a positive diagnostic test for the virus that causes COVID-19 in the prior ten days, or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in their prior 14 days, is permitted in the establishment.

>Post signage to provide public health reminders regarding physical distancing, gatherings, options for high risk individuals, and staying home if sick.

Per current Virginia Phase III Guidelines, post the following at indoor venues:

CCPS currently has the following signage in place at school buildings, but to be consistent with the Virginia Phase III Guidelines, if the sign is not currently visible at indoor points of entry for rehearsal/event participants/spectators, the following must be posted in that area for indoor venues:

>Post signage at the entrance that states that no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, a positive diagnostic test for the virus that causes COVID-19 in the prior ten days, or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in their prior 14 days, is permitted in the establishment.

>Post signage at the entrance of all indoor areas stating that patrons must wear a mask in accordance with Fourth Amended Executive Order 72.

>Post signage to provide public health reminders regarding physical distancing, gatherings, options for high risk individuals, and staying home if sick.

This guidance becomes immediately effective on April 1, 2021 for Secondary Schools (6-12) with a CCPS review of this existing plan scheduled after each Governor's Order amendment or CDC update.