

COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines for RMHS Choir and Drama Club 2020-2021

A General Rule: Regardless of how you may feel, use an abundance of caution at all times and be respectful of the concerns and well-being of those around you!

Mandatory Rules for All Participants

- Masks **MUST** be worn at all times, including while singing, acting, and dancing.
- **NO** sharing food, water, music, or equipment at any time. Anything that you might touch during a rehearsal must stay in your possession or in a designated space assigned to you. (This includes, but is not limited to: sheet music, folders, phones, backpacks, and pencils.)
- **DO NOT** come to rehearsal if you are sick or experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms.
- **DO NOT** put yourself at risk in order to participate in any given rehearsal. **Attendance is not mandatory and fully optional.** If you have even the slightest concern for your own health or the health of others, the staff will provide options for you to participate remotely as best as can be provided. This may include virtual lessons and rehearsals, online video assignments, and/or publicly shared materials and video resources.
- Excessive disregard for RMHS policies regarding COVID-19 will result in dismissal from the program until further notice. The pandemic is not a trivial matter and our community has suffered substantially, so there will be a zero tolerance policy for situations that would put the entire program, school, and town at further risk.

Face Coverings

- All students and staff members who plan to participate in outdoor rehearsals must wear a face covering that meets current Reading Public School guidelines. Neck fleece, neck gaiters, bandanas, knitted masks, and masks with vents are not as effective as other cloth face coverings and medical face masks and are discouraged from use.

Distancing Guidelines

- All RMHS Choir and Drama Club activities will follow the latest COVID-19 policies and guidelines recommended by the Commonwealth of MA, Governor Baker, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This detailed information can be found on [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) or by searching “Reopening Massachusetts” online.
- During rehearsals, all participants will adhere to the common practice of maintaining a minimum separation of six feet from one person to another at all times. Students should take any opportunity to expand upon that distancing to a more comfortable radius of ten feet whenever possible.

- While singing, students MUST maintain a minimum distance of ten feet away from other students and staff.
- Staff personnel will remain a minimum distance of ten feet away from any and all students while giving instruction.

Before Rehearsal and Arrivals

- All students will report to member check-in at door number two (outside the band room) before entering the outdoor rehearsal space.
- Students will NOT be allowed to enter the school building for any reason. Bathroom facilities will be available in the “snack shack” near the athletic fields.
- Start and end times for rehearsals may be staggered for sections to eliminate congestion and keep rehearsals to a maximum number of 25 students at one time.
- At check-in, students will be asked to complete a brief pre-screening to monitor that no one in their household is symptomatic.
- Meticulous attendance records will be kept for the sake of contact tracing (as mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts).
- After check-in, each student will be given a specific “rehearsal zone” to situate themselves and their belongings. Students should work to reduce the amount of personal items and equipment they bring to the physical rehearsal space.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own folding lawn chair to sit in at rehearsal.

Moving Equipment and Setup

- Students will not be involved in moving or setting-up equipment.

Water Recommendations

- Each member will be responsible for bringing no less than 32 ounces of water to rehearsal in a water bottle or other container.
- Water may not be shared.

Hand Washing Imperatives

- Upon entry into and exit from program space
- When coming into the rehearsal space from outside activities
- Before and after eating
- After sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing
- After using bathroom facilities
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may have been contaminated
- After using any shared field equipment
- Before and after administration of medication

After Rehearsals and Dismissal

- When rehearsals end, all typical “wrap-up” procedures will be done while conforming to social distancing guidelines, in order to avoid congregation.

- After students have been dismissed by staff, they will be asked to proceed to designated pick-up zones near the school:
 - Soprano pick-up: PAC entrance
 - Alto pick-up: staff parking lot (above stairs to main entrance of RMHS)
 - Tenor and bass pick-up: main entrance of RMHS
- All students who plan to walk home should do so with extreme caution and ALL appropriate PPE needs. We strongly suggest students are mindful of their behaviors while walking home, including the following:
 - Avoid touching public surfaces, crosswalk buttons, parked vehicles, etc. without protective gloves.
 - Limit social interaction with the general public and be smart about making several stops along your way, like convenience stores, hang-out spots, etc.
 - In general, follow typical public safety behaviors:
 - DO NOT walk home alone if possible.
 - DO NOT walk through unfamiliar neighborhoods.
 - DO NOT speak with unknown people during your travels.
 - Wear bright colors at night time to make yourself visible to traffic.
 - Stick to major roads with a high traffic volume for safety.
 - Carry a phone with you at all times if possible.
- In the event that we run into great difficulties at the outset of this plan, in terms of group dismissal and arrival, we will pivot to a staggered drop-off and pick-up procedure. That plan will be detailed at a later date if it were to be implemented.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Any student or staff member who has experienced COVID-19-like symptoms should return to in-person school rehearsal only when they have tested negative for COVID-19, have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
- If a student or staff member presents COVID-19-like symptoms and chooses not to be tested, they may return to in-person 10 days from start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school without the use of fever reducing medication.
- All district policies and guidelines as outlined in the Reading Public Schools' Extracurricular Activities Waiver will be closely followed and adhered to at all times.

**COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines for
RMHS Choir and Drama Club
Acknowledgement**

Date: _____

Member Name: _____

By signing this document, I understand and acknowledge all of the Policies and Guidelines set forth by the Reading Memorial High School Choir and Drama Departments on behalf of Reading Memorial High School and the entire Reading Public Schools district. My signature, along with that of my parent/guardian, confirms that we have thoroughly read the document in its entirety. I understand that a violation of these rules and regulations can and will result in a period of dismissal from the extracurricular activity. I have taken adequate time to consider all of the ways in which I should behave during all future rehearsals, including my responsibility to keep others safe and healthy, and my mindfulness for the well-being of the entire program.

Member Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____