

Music Classes Adapt to COVID-19

Music Classes Use Unique COVID-19 Protections

Most people are a little more conscious these days of how close they get to people and the quality of the air they breathe, thanks to COVID-19. Keeping germs contained can get tricky for music classes, but Fargo Public Schools (FPS) is adapting and getting performers the tools they need to sing, play, and stay safe.

The National Federation of State High School Associations commissioned an [aerosol study](#) to find out how singing and playing instruments can spread germs through the air. Initially, there was concern about whether performances can be done safely, but FPS Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist Ainsley Rentfrow says, “This study has brought better news!” She goes on to say, “There are extra precautions that need to be taken, but with those precautions, it is safe to sing and play wind instruments.”



South High School choir students stand apart and sing with masks on. Photo Courtesy: Ainsley Rentfrow



Ben Franklin Middle School students play flutes equipped with shields. Photo Courtesy: Ainsley Rentfrow

Singers and wind instrument players must be six feet apart. Trombone players need to be placed 9 feet apart to accommodate for the increased air flow. Additionally, everyone and their instruments must wear masks. Wind instrument players have special masks with a slit for the mouthpiece to fit. There are also masks that go over the bell of the instrument. Flute players also use a mouthpiece shield.

Singing and playing is limited to 30 minutes. The room is then cleared so air can refresh. Music classes are also being held outside when weather allows.

While addressing the changes, Rentfrow says, “This has definitely been an interesting few months in education and in the Performing Arts world. But what I have seen from our music and theatre staff is absolutely amazing.”

