



Fall 2021
COVID-19 Guidance
Department of Music
Revised 10/22/2021

I. Introduction

While all Furman University policies apply to the Department of Music, we have developed guidelines specific to certain activities within our department and Daniel Music Building because some of our activities generate aerosol particles which are invisible and may be infectious. These guidelines have been developed through a detailed review of the available scientific research, coordination with facilities management, and involve the collaboration of the department, COVID-19 Response Committee, and the Public Health and Safety Advisory Group. We intend to begin this semester cautiously and safely, and the high vaccination levels amongst both faculty and students leave us in an advantageous position within the current environment. As the situation on and around campus evolves, this guidance may also change. Please check our website or with the department office for updates to these policies. For the purposes of these guidelines, aerosol-generating activities include singing, woodwind, and brass playing.

Faculty, staff, and students should not enter Daniel Music Building or participate in any Department of Music activity if they are symptomatic, have an active coronavirus infection, or are under investigation for a coronavirus infection until they have met Furman's criteria to return to campus. For students, that means they must be cleared to return by the Earle Student Health Center, and faculty and staff must follow the guidance of Human Resources.

While this guidance is directed specifically toward musical activity, students, faculty, and staff should follow all university, state, and local guidance to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within our community. It is important to recognize that any one person's choices may have a profound impact on others.

This document cannot address every instance where aerosols might be produced. If you have a question about your activity, please ask. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the chair's office.

II. Ensembles

a. General

- Indoor rehearsals of no more than 50 minutes in one location, with 20-minute minimum room vacancy between occupancy to allow for adequate air exchange
- Singers, brass, and woodwind players must be distanced a minimum of 3' in each direction, except for opera staging. Strings, percussion, and keyboard players have no distancing restrictions.
- Faculty/students responsible for cleaning of music stands, piano keyboards, and other surfaces via disinfectant wipes

b. Bands and Orchestra

- When students are playing indoors, they should be masked and may use bell covers on wind instruments, when feasible. When playing indoors without a bell cover, minimum distance should be increased to 6'. Students may lower their masks while playing, but must replace masks during extended rests or instruction. Conductors and teachers will wear masks at all times indoors. Masks will be worn entering and exiting rooms. Face masks must fit properly and cover both mouth and nose when worn.
- Wind and brass instrument bells should not be directed towards others
- Practice condensation valve hygiene. Furman will provide students with small, absorbent pads that can be disposed of after each rehearsal.

c. Choirs/Opera

- Dual-layer fabric (at a minimum) or masking provided by the Department of Music for *all* individuals at *all* times, including while singing
- Singers must be distanced a minimum of 3' in each direction, with the exception of opera staging

III. Applied Lessons

a. Strings, harp, percussion, piano, organ, composition

- Teaching studio must accommodate social distancing of 3 ft
- Lessons of no more than 60 minutes
- Faculty/students responsible for cleaning of music stands, piano keyboards, and other surfaces via disinfectant wipes
- Faculty and students are required to wear a mask during lessons, consistent with university policy.

b. Woodwinds and brass

- When students are playing indoors, they should be masked and may use bell covers on wind instruments, when feasible. Students may lower their masks while playing, but will replace masks during extended rests or instruction. Conductors and teachers will wear masks at all times indoors. Masks will be worn entering and exiting rooms. Face masks must fit properly and cover both mouth and nose when worn.

- Teaching studio must accommodate social distancing of 6 ft
- Lessons of no more than 50 minutes
- 15-minute room vacancy required between each lesson to allow for adequate air exchange
- Faculty/students responsible for cleaning of music stands, piano keyboards, and other surfaces via disinfectant wipes
- Practice condensation valve hygiene. Furman will provide students with small, absorbent pads that can be disposed of after each lesson.
- Instrument bells should not be directed towards others

c. **Voice**

- Dual-layer fabric (at a minimum), or masking provided by the Department of Music required for all participants at all times
- Teaching studio must accommodate social distancing of 6 ft
- Lessons of no more than 50 minutes
- 15-minute room vacancy required between each lesson to allow for adequate air exchange
- Faculty/students responsible for cleaning of music stands, piano keyboards, and other surfaces via disinfectant wipes

IV. **Studio classes**

- Studio classes are limited to 50 consecutive minutes in the same space.
- For instrumental and keyboard studio classes, students should be masked and may use bell covers, when feasible. When playing indoors without a bell cover, minimum distance should be increased to 6 ft. Students may lower their masks while playing, but must replace masks during extended rests or instruction.
- For voice studio classes, dual-layer fabric or masking provided by the Department of Music is required for the teacher, pianists, and attendees. The singer may perform unmasked if the teacher and pianist permit it and the studio class is in one of the following spaces: Daniel Recital Hall, Harper Hall, or outdoors.

V. **Classroom courses**

- Classrooms will operate at standard capacity. Face coverings will always be required, except for wind instrument playing. Wind instrument playing should follow the guidelines in III.b.
- For sightsinging activities, masked singing may take place in class. Faculty may also conduct sightsinging exercises outdoors or collect examples via Box/Moodle.

VI. **Practice Rooms**

- Practice rooms are for practicing only, and reservations will again be made in two-hour blocks through SignUp Genius.

- b. Face coverings are not required in practice rooms, but practice rooms have a maximum capacity of one persons.
- c. Leave the door open when you exit the space at the end of your practice session if a HEPA air cleaner is not present; if a HEPA unit is present the door should be left closed.
- d. The HEPA air cleaner should always be left on the medium setting during use and the highest setting when the room is vacant.
- e. Students are responsible for cleaning of music stands, piano keyboards, and other surfaces via disinfectant wipes.
- f. DO NOT bring stands from rehearsal halls into your practice rooms.

VII. Recitals

- a. For solo recitals (one performer plus pianist), performers may be unmasked on stage if the performer is asymptomatic, the teacher and pianist permit it, and if the recital is in one of the following spaces: Daniel Recital Hall, Daniel Chapel, or Harper Hall.
- b. For group recitals (student recital hours, faculty showcases), instrumental and keyboard performers should be masked and using bell covers on wind instruments. Performers may lower their masks while playing, but must replace masks during extended rests or instruction. Singers may perform unmasked if the teacher and pianist permit it and the recital is in one of the following spaces: Daniel Recital Hall, Daniel Chapel, or Harper Hall.

VIII. Building Access

- a. Friends and Family
 - Family members are not currently permitted in academic buildings or other campus facilities, but may access the Barnes & Noble Bookstore and Starbucks.
- b. Invited Guests
 - Outside guests may use facilities with approval from the Department Chair, provided their use conforms to these guidelines.
- c. Concert Attendance
 - All Furman Department of Music concerts in Daniel Recital Hall are streamed via our [YouTube channel](#).
 - Concert attendees are considered invited guests and allowed in McAlister Auditorium and Daniel Recital Hall. All persons must wear a mask over their mouth and nose at all times inside Daniel Music Building. All persons who are not Furman students and who are attending an event in Daniel Recital Hall should sign in at the appropriate registration location announced at the concert. 3' distancing is encouraged between attendees.
- d. Recruiting activities
 - Faculty and staff may begin meeting with prospective students and families in person. Faculty should meet the guests at the door to help them find their way into the building.
 - There are no limitations for outdoor meetings with prospective students and families.

- All sample lessons should conform to these guidelines, especially regarding masking, bell covers, and duration.
- e. Room Usage
- All room usage must be reserved through the departmental office; rooms must not be used if they are not reserved.

IX. Ventilation/Mechanical Systems

- a. All campus spaces have been reviewed by Facility Services for ventilation to ensure adequate air exchange and increased input of fresh air.
- b. Supplemental mechanical solutions such as HEPA air cleaners and higher efficiency air filters will be installed where necessary. These HEPA air cleaners must be kept running continuously on at least the medium setting and must not be moved from their assigned location.