

Unprecedented International Coalition led by Performing Arts Organizations to Commission COVID-19 Study

By Chairs, Mark Spede (CBDNA) and James Weaver (NFHS) on June 26, 2020

[*music directors & adjudicators article*](#)

Preliminary results for woodwinds and brass are scheduled for July 10th while preliminary results for singing and theatre are expected by July 25th. Guidance to be available shortly afterwards.

A number of performing arts organizations have joined forces to commission a study on the effects of COVID-19 on the return to the rehearsal hall. It is important to understand what risks exist in performing arts classrooms and performance venues. Specifically, the study will examine aerosol rates produced by wind instrumentalists, vocalists, and even actors, and how quickly those aerosol rates accumulate in a space. Although not yet proven, strong anecdotal evidence suggests that the COVID-19 virus can travel in the microscopic droplets expelled from a person with the virus, even when asymptomatic. The only way to determine what risk level exists or to create best practices for reducing infection risk is to understand how aerosol disbursement works in a performing arts setting.

Once the aerosol rates are better understood, the study will focus on remediation of aerosols in confined spaces like rehearsal rooms (both educational and professional), classrooms, and performance settings in order to develop better understanding, policy, and practice for a safe returning to performance and education.

Dr. Shelly Miller at the University of Colorado will lead the scientific study and

says, "Aerosol generating activities have the potential to transmit COVID as the research shows, but we have very little data on what kinds of generation happen when playing instruments. We will be studying this phenomenon (hopefully with funding) in our aerosol laboratory at the University of Colorado Boulder and with this data, will be able to provide better evidence-based guidance."

Several national and international performing arts education organizations are combining resources to study the effects of COVID-19 aerosol transmission in performing arts performance settings. The study is a massive undertaking that will require a focused effort from all of us. This effort will be a duplicated study and will test how aerosols can spread from brass and woodwind instruments, the four vocal ranges, theatrical speech, and aerobic breathing. We are calling on any performing arts educational organization to join our research council. Your organizational support is the most important, we also ask for your financial assistance, as these scientific research studies are labor and financially intensive. Together we can create scientifically proven methods for our return to performing arts education in a safe way with research showing us best practices and advocacy.

Statement of Work

How to Submit Funds

Please remit your check made payable to the NFHS with "COVID-19 aerosol research study" in the memo line. Please mail to:

NFHS

PO Box 690

Indianapolis, IN 46206

The coalition is being led by a committee made up of the following:

Co-Chairs

-Mark Spede, President of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) and Director of Bands, Clemson University

-James Weaver, Director of Performing Arts and Sports, National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The organizations in the coalition to date include:

*College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA)

*National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)

*National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

*D'Addario Foundation

*Alabama Music Educators Association

*American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)

American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA)

American String Teachers Association (ASTA)

*Arts Ed NJ

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)

*Athletes and the Arts

Association Européenne des Conservatoires/Académies de Musique
et Musikhochschulen (AEC)

*Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM)

*Association of Concert Bands

*Barbershop Harmony Society

Buffet et Crampon

Bundesverband der deutschen Musikinstrumentenhersteller e.V

*California Youth Symphony Association

*Canadian Band Association (CBA)

Children's Chorus of Washington

*Church Music Publishers Association (CMPA)

Chorus America

*College Orchestra Directors Association (CODA)

Confederation of European Music Industries (CAFIM)

*Country Music Association Foundation

Drum Corps International (DCI)

*Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)

European Choral Association - Europa Cantat

*Florida Music Education Association (FMEA)

*French Musical Instrument Organisation (La Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale, CSFI)

*Gala Choruses

HBCU National Band Directors' Consortium

High School Directors National Association (HSBDNA)

*Indiana Choral Directors Association

*Indiana State School Music Association

*Indianapolis Children's Choir

International Conductors Guild

*International Double Reed Society (IDRS)

International Music Council

International Society for Music Education

*Kansas Bandmasters Association (KBA)

*Kappa Kappa Psi

*Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA)

League of American Orchestras

Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA)

*Manitoba Band Association

*Mid Penn Band Organization

MidWest Clinic

Minority Band Directors National Association

*Music for All

Music Industries Association

*Music Learning Band Program

*Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)

*Music Publishers Association

Musical America Worldwide

National Association for Music Education (NAfME)

*National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)

*National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO)

National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)

National Flute Association (NFA)

National Music Council of the US

*National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA)

*New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA)

*New York State Band Directors Association

*New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)

*Nova Scotia Band Association

*Oahu Band Directors Association

*Ohio Foundation for Music Education (OFME)

*Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA)

*Opera America

*Orcas Island Community Band

*Orchestras Canada/Orchestres Canada

Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE)

Percussive Arts Society (PAS)

*Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA)

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

*Quadrant Research

*Saskatchewan Band Association

Save the Music Foundation

*South Dakota Bandmasters Association

*South Dakota Music Education Association

*Sweet Adelines International (SAI)

*Tau Beta Sigma

*Tennessee Music Education Association (TMEA)

*Texas Bandmasters Association

*Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA)

*The College Music Society and The CMS Fund

The Sinfonia Educational Foundation

*The Voice Foundation

*Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA)

WGI Sport of the Arts

*Wisconsin School Music Association

*Women Band Directors International (WBDI)

*World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE)

Collegiate Conference Band Associations:

*ACC Band Directors Association

*Big 12 Band Directors Association

*Big 10 Band Directors Association

*PAC 12 Band Directors Association

*SEC Band Directors Association

Individual Schools:

*Clemson University Bands

*UCLA

*Utah

Supporters:

*Bob Morrison

*Bob Rogers Travel

*Conn-Selmer

*D'Addario Woodwinds

*Drs. Ryan and Kristen Sullivan

* Organizations have provided financial support

(Updated as of 6/26/20 at 2:30 PM)

For more information or questions contact:

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James Weaver jweaver@nfhs.org

Here's a collection of articles and studies relating to COVID-19 that pertain to our study:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1PZ8RF3EytzUWGwfjNpu4fsyXc4E_u2Yi

[Click here to see more NFHS COVID-19 Resources](#)