



The Marching Southerners

MU192/MU392 & MU193/MU393

FALL 2020

DR. KENNETH BODIFORD

Mason Hall #312

kenbodiford@jsu.edu

COVID-19 PROTOCOL THE MARCHING SOUTHERNERS FALL 2020

Marching Southerners Option B – Rehearsal / Performance Guidelines

Option B describes a scenario where the COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed, and social distancing guidelines are still in place. School is open (regular schedule or hybrid schedule) and football games are being played. This plan requires the most careful planning and implementation. The Marching Southerners will be divided into three separate smaller marching bands (approximately 130 members per band).

We understand the need for flexibility and the ability to quickly pivot should the coronavirus situation worsen or, hopefully, improve. We have several potential plans in place and some general guidelines. While we are unsure about what band camp will actually look like--because so much depends on the COVID case count--we are happy to share our guiding principles with everyone.

Rehearsals

- Attendance at rehearsals and practices are optional for students and should adhere to all state and local regulations
- Options for remote learning will be made available in case the university moves to online learning
- During practices and rehearsals, staff must ensure social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures are utilized at all times
- Hand-sanitizing stations should be available for students and staff
- There will be no shared food or water by students or staff
- Before each rehearsal can begin each student will be screened via a series of questions regarding their personal health and the health of those they have come into contact with and should include a temperature screening
- Students are required to bring their own thermos or water bottle (Ice will not be provided)
- Students will adhere to an assigned entrance and exit procedure and no gatherings of any kind will be permitted
- Students must maintain a distance of six feet from each other at all times before, during, and after rehearsal and a recommendation for maintaining a distance of ten feet during the actual rehearsal is advisable due to increased heart rates and more intense breathing due to physical activity
- Indoor practices will be avoided when possible due to decreased air circulation
- When indoor sectional rehearsals are conducted, students must still maintain a safe distance apart and all used surfaces must be sanitized immediately following their usage
- It is recommended that all students, in an indoor rehearsal should stand to reduce the usage of chairs and possibly transmitting the virus
- Equipment may not be moved, handled, or utilized by multiple individuals
- All used equipment should be cleaned and sanitized immediately following each use and there will be no sharing of any equipment, instruments, or music of any kind
- Rehearsal time will be reduced, and longer breaks should be included to allow contaminated air to dissipate
- The use of shared restrooms and water fountains is discouraged, and shorter rehearsals may eliminate the need to use these facilities
- If restrooms are available, they should be used one student at a time and sanitizer will be made available
- If inclement weather is expected it is advised to cancel the rehearsal, therefore, eliminating the need for an indoor rehearsal
- It is recommended that clarinet and saxophone players use plastic reeds rather than cane reeds to allow for proper disinfecting
- Students will wear cloth masks when they are not performing on their instrument before, during and after rehearsal periods
- Students are highly recommended to shower and change clothing once returning to their residence housing following a rehearsal
- Students should be spaced at a minimum of a four-step interval in all on-field drill formations
- Each student should have their own designated space for their instrument and equipment that is not shared with other students
- Maximum gathering size should not be in excess of the state allowable maximum participation limit for indoor and outdoor activities
- The Marching Southerners will not travel this season on buses

Band Camp

- Shorter Camp. Check-in Aug. 7 instead of July 31 (One-week Camp)
- Shorter rehearsal times than in the past
 - Field/Marching Rehearsal -
 - 8:00a - 10:00a Band A
 - 5:00p - 7:00p Band B
 - 7:30p - 9:30p Band C
 - Music Rehearsal -
 - 8:00a - 10:00a Band B
 - 5:00p - 7:00p Band C
 - 7:30p - 9:30p Band A

*The above rehearsal schedule will rotate daily. (Each group will get an opportunity to sleep-in at some point)

*1:00p – 5:00p (daily) At some point throughout the week of camp, each group will be involved in COVID-19 Safety Training, Diversity and Inclusion Training, Hazing Training, and possible music sectionals/full ensemble (during the 1:00pm – 5:00pm time block)

*GREENLIGHT on the tower signifies that it is ok for the next band to enter the field

*ONLY enter the practice field through the north gates at 6 ft. interval

*ONLY exit practice field through the front(center) and south gates

Indoor Sectionals

- Standing is preferred
- If chairs are used, they must be sanitized after each usage
- Chairs must be placed 6ft apart (front to back and side to side)
- Masks should be worn when not playing an instrument
- Masks will be worn inside the building at all times (other than when playing an instrument)
- Water may only be release from an instrument into a waste receptacle, not on the floor.
- Woodwinds may not blow water out of keys. Only use swabs.

Gameday will look very different

- No Uniforms (due to sweat collecting on the material)
- Students must always remain at a 6 ft distance (4 – steps or more) apart while entering/exiting the stadium
- When sitting in the stands, entering the field, exiting the field or performing on the field - Students must always remain at a 6 ft distance (4 – steps or more) apart
- No sharing food or drinks
- Each student must bring their own thermos or water bottle
- Movement on the field (drill) will be less and more limited than in the past. Social distancing will be at the forefront during the drill-writing process.

Questions and Answers

- Will PPE be available for band students?
 - Yes, masks will be requested from the stockpile for students that do not have their own. Sanitizing stations will be located in several areas around the field.
- What is the Check-in process for rehearsals?
 - Each student will have their temperature checked upon arrival. (No-touch thermometers will be used)
 - Each student will be required to scan a QR code at the entrance gates (daily) when they arrive for rehearsals. (This will assist with contact tracing)
- Will students be tested?
 - The plan is for all JSU students to be tested before arriving on campus for fall classes. The band students will be tested prior to band camp.
- Protocol when someone tests positive?
 - When this occurs a member of the Task Force will conduct an investigation to see who was potentially exposed. It can take several hours to complete the investigation before the task force knows who was exposed. Once they've made that determination, those individuals exposed will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last time they had exposure to the person that tests positive.
- What are the procedures for contact tracing?
 - See above for when someone tests positive
- Will cleaning supplies be made available in the restrooms at the practice field.
 - Yes
- Will the band use an App for contact tracing?
 - JSU will be offering our students and employees an exposure app developed by Google/Apple and set to be launched at the beginning of the fall semester. It will not be mandatory because the app will not work with some older operating systems.
- What is the procedure if a staff member tests positive?
 - Same as with a student. They are asked to self-isolate for 14 days from the last day they had symptoms. A member of the Task Force will conduct a thorough interview to determine who was potentially exposed. Those we deem to be exposed will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days beginning with the last day they had exposure to the person who tests positive.

- If a student becomes infected, will the university provide testing for the ones in contact with that student?
 - Typically, we ask the students and staff to self-quarantine and only seek testing if they become symptomatic. If we are talking about the Student Health Center, a doctor at RMC has to order a test, otherwise, the cost of the test is on the individual or the organization. Insurance will not pay for this unless a physician orders it. The County Health Dept does testing on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 0830-1030 hours. They will test anyone whether they are symptomatic or not. However, it can take 2-3 days to get the result back, perhaps longer if the result is negative.
- How quick is the turn around on the COVID19 test?
 - We are in the process of acquiring a rapid, point of care test for the Student Health Center. The test works with a simple nasal swab and takes 15 minutes to run the test. This is a dramatic improvement over what we have now.