



The Marching Southernners

MU192/MU392 & MU193/MU393

FALL 2020

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COVID-19 PROTOCOL THE MARCHING SOUTHERNERS FALL 2020 (UPDATED July 2020)

Marching Southernners Option B¹ – 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. The Marching Southernners will be divided into three separate smaller 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 all rehearsals will actually look like--because so much depends on the COVID case count--we are happy to share our guiding principles with everyone.

Overview

- Due to recent OVC rulings, the Marching Southerners will perform from the stands at football games this fall.
- 2020 Band Camp was canceled because the band will not be marching this year. In addition, the cancellation of pre-season camp reduces the amount of time the band students and staff members spend together on a daily basis.
- Weekly (face to face) rehearsal time will be greatly reduced, and a blended virtual approach will be introduced.
- The Marching Southerners will be divided into 3 separate bands in order to assist with social distancing the members.
- All three bands will be seated at the football games in separate locations and play from the stands. (The members will be seated at a 6 ft. distance front to back and side to side.)
- Uniforms will not be issued this year. Member t-shirts will be issued for performances. (If the COVID case numbers have declined, it is hopeful to issue uniforms for the JSU Homecoming date.
- Members will be asked to wear masks when not playing their instruments during rehearsals and performances.
- The sharing of instruments will not be allowed.
- Each member will check-in at rehearsals by scanning a QR code to assist with contact tracing if needed.
- Temperatures will be taken daily as the members arrive for band rehearsal.
- Band members will enter and exit the practice field area through designated gates for all rehearsals (while social distancing).
- Each member must provide their own water bottles/thermoses at all rehearsals and performances.
- Members will be required to follow social distancing guidelines during all rehearsals and performances.

Indoor Music 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 which 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.