

## Suggestions and Guidance for Fall Plays and Drama work in schools.

This guidance was created, using the latest public health information provided by Iowa Department of Health (IDPH), the CDC, and many other educational groups as a resource for coaches and administrators to determine how a school may begin to engage running drama work and play productions while keeping students, teachers, and spectators safe. This guidance will be a fluid document that will be updated as more information becomes available from the Governor's office, the IDPH, the CDC, and other research studies. It must be used in conjunction with all proclamations issued by the governor and guidance provided by the IDPH. Any local policies established should always be done in compliance with local public health officials and local law enforcement.

Guidance will be posted here and will be updated often.. The following mitigation efforts are strongly encouraged to ensure student, teacher, and parent safety. This document is intended to serve the educational community with the best possible ways to reduce chances of spreading infection within drama rehearsals and the theatre work with the understanding that all schools will be looking to mitigate these risks throughout their buildings. Please call the State Office (515) 401-1834 if you have questions. PLEASE WATCH FOR UPDATES ON THIS GUIDANCE or SUGGESTIONS through-out the fall in the IHSSA web site.

- Post signage prominently indicating no one should attend or participate in rehearsals or drama work if they currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
- Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or above or other signs of illness shall not be allowed to participate. Temperature should be checked before coming to the rehearsal.
- Facemasks or face coverings should be worn at all times by students, directors and anyone who is in the environment of the rehearsal or the drama work.
- Students must practice social distancing maintaining a 6 foot space between them and other students. When preparing for a presentation or rehearsal, if a coach needs to move within the six-foot area to facilitate the rehearsal, they should do so briefly and then resume social distancing promptly. If a chair is to be used by a performer or other equipment that must be sanitized between each usage.
- Avoid unnecessary touching, movement or singing that might increase the transmission of aerosol droplets.
- Scripts, writing instruments, and other items for a rehearsal should never be shared.
- Teachers, instructors, and students should wash hands regularly and/or utilize hand sanitizer. Special attention should be given to hand washing/sanitization anytime a surface is touched. Teachers / Coaches should frequently remind students not to touch their faces with their hands.
- Students and Teachers should be encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should also be available on site for use if needed.

- Schedule staggered bathroom breaks to ensure social distancing guidelines, based on the application of the room capacity formula.
- Doors opened at the beginning and end of the rehearsal or drama class to ensure students are not touching door handles.
- One-way traffic patterns established for entering and exiting the room, pick-up, and storage of props. Students should wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after rehearsal or drama classroom work.
- 30-minute rehearsals are suggested and then have an air change.
- Indoors: Clear room for minimum of 1 air change before next rehearsal
- Outdoors: Clear rehearsal space for 5 minutes before next rehearsal block. Outdoors is best
- Indoors know your HVAC systems capacity – increase air exchange rate if possible.
- Add additional HEPA filtration in rehearsal spaces where this is a concern or where faster turnover rate is needed between rehearsals.
- Anyone with symptoms of illness will not be allowed to participate.
- Have a plan in place if someone is or becomes sick. Students (through consultation with their parents) should be referred to their health care provider and public health should be notified.
- Teachers and instructors should be knowledgeable of their students with pre-existing health conditions and work with school nurses or other health officials to take additional precautions as needed.
- Coaches / Teachers are encouraged to include messages about behaviors that help reduce the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with students and parents, such as on websites or in emails.
- A list of all participating individuals should be kept for the rehearsal so that if an issue arises contact tracing can be facilitated through the IDPH.
- Maintain confidentiality in the reports of any staff or student COVID-19 illness. Contact your local administration and public health agency directly to report COVID-19 exposure.
- Suggestion to work in small groups for shorter amount of times. IE: cut your plays into French scene work and only have those students that need to be there at that time for that scene.
- Drama work may be performed indoor or outside. If the event is indoors the rehearsal should take place in a large space (such as a gym or theatre space). If an indoor space is being used that must be cleared with the proper administration and cleaning procedures must be followed per CDC guidance.
- Participants that are in a high-risk category should avoid coming to the rehearsal or drama workshops. This would include students, judges, coaches, and parents.
- Students must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after rehearsals.
- There should be no car-pooling to or from the rehearsals.
- Coaches and students are encourage to wash their clothing immediately upon returning to home.
- Warm up time should be done in a straight line and never facing each other. The circle warmup procedure should NOT be used.
- There should be no touching participants in the warmup time.

- Meet technical needs (set and costume construction, lights, sound, etc.) through the application of standard safe practice procedures and a staggered schedule that ensures social distancing in all workspaces.
- Please review reopening guidance to Theatre from EdTA ..that link found in the Covid resource area