

Hempfield Area Spartan Band
COVID Health and Safety Plan to Resume Activities
Effective 1 JUL 2020

(Approved by the HASD School Board 22 JUN 2020)

(Note: This policy is only approved through 20 JUL 2020 at which time the Hempfield Area School District will review future plans based upon updated guidance and COVID conditions within the District)

1. **Purpose:** To establish written guidelines for the Hempfield Area Spartan Band (HASB) to resume sectional instruction, large group rehearsals and performances and for the Hempfield Band Parent's Association (HBPA) to resume support activities and meetings in conjunction with the HASB.
2. **Background:** Due to COVID restrictions in place by order of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and said requirement to have an approved health and safety plan by the school administration and board, written protocols are required to safely conduct activities associated with the HASB and the HBPA for the foreseeable future.
3. **Reference:**
 - a. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - b. PA Department of Education <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
 - c. Pa Department of Education '*Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools*', 3 June 2020
 - d. Pa Department of Health <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
4. **Duration:** Until COVID restrictions have ended per the State of Pennsylvania. This protocol will be reviewed monthly to ensure compliance with applicable guidance and regulations.
5. **Protocol Management:** The HBPA Medical Committee Chairperson will manage and monitor compliance with COVID health and safety protocols with the organization. All faculty, staff and volunteers will also be responsible to enforce and monitor strict adherence to COVID health and safety protocols as set forth in the document.
6. **Organizational Responsibilities:** The HASB, with support from the HBPA, will ensure strict compliance with all applicable Federal, state, local and district COVID health and safety measures by faculty, staff, students and volunteers. The HBPA will also provide resources and support for health, safety and sanitization products and any additional resources required to conduct associated activities in accordance with applicable regulations and guidance.
7. **Student Responsibilities:** Students will comply with applicable safety and health requirements established by the HASB/HBPA in accordance with applicable Federal, state, local and district COVID health and safety measures. Failure to do may result in removal from activities and disciplinary action by school administration.

8. Parental Responsibilities:

- a. If a student is ill, do not send them to a band activity.
- b. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, do not send them to a band activity.
- c. If a parent needs to conduct official business or activities with a faculty member, staff or HBPA executive council member during a rehearsal, they will do so at the end of the rehearsal. Only volunteers who are scheduled to be on the premises during any and activity or HBPA executive council members are permitted to be at rehearsals, unless otherwise stated.
- d. If a student cannot wear a mask due to medical issues. The parent will provide a doctor's excuse stating this.
- e. Parents will be required to wear a mask when attending HASB and HBPA activities.
- f. Unless there is specific business that needs to be attend to with the faculty, staff or HBPA executive council members, all

9. Medical Committee Responsibilities: The HBPA has certified trained medical personnel who are volunteers on the executive council and also chaperones. They are present at all HASB and HBPA activities. Medical committee members will monitor compliance with the HASB/HBPA COVID health and safety plan.

10. General Protocols:

- a. *Masks:* Masks will be worn the greatest extent possible. This will not always be the case due to the type of instrument a student may play that will require the use of their mouth. Additionally due to physical exertion when marching or practicing drill, masks will not be worn so not as to impede the airflow of the individual and create injury. It is the responsibility of the faculty, staff, students and volunteers to provide their own masks. Disposable mask will be available in the event of an emergency or need at all activities.
- b. *Temperature Checks:* Temperature checks will be conducted before all activities for all faculty, staff, students and volunteers to ensure no one has a fever greater than 100.4 degrees. Anyone who does will immediately leave or be isolated until a guardian or parent can come and take them home. Per CDC guidance, for a student to return to rehearsals, "At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)" Student temperature checks will be logged and available for review. (NOTE: We will apply additional actions, rules or precautions based upon requirements from the school district once published. Expect this update to be finalized no later than 9 JUL 2019)
- c. *Social Distancing:* To the greatest extent possible whether standing or seated indoors or outdoors, all faculty, staff, students and volunteers will observe social distancing guidelines and maintain six feet of separation when and where feasible. Unless required by activity or design, students will not congregate in mass. Hallways will not be utilized for congregating and only for ingress and egress through the facility.
- d. *Hygiene:* Hand sanitizer and disposable masks (if needed) will be available at all activities. Periodic hand washing, as warranted, will occur during all activities.

- e. *Education:* Daily reminders during all activities of adherence to health and safety protocols will occur. Signage will be created and placed in key areas of the band wing to reiterate health and safety protocols. Additionally periodic reminders of adherence to the health and safety protocols will be reiterated in the HBPA newsletter and also through the band Facebook page. All information pertaining to this plan will be available for download on the band's website www.hempfieldareaband.org. This plan will also be posted in common areas in the band wing, the band trailer and reviewed with all parents at the HBPA meeting in July. The HASD band director will also review this plan with all students prior to the resumption of activities.
- f. *Special Considerations and Accommodations for "At Risk Students":* Any parent or legal guardian who believes their child is medically at risk due to underlying medical issues can and should discuss their concerns with the HBPA Medical Committee Chairperson. Based upon each unique situation and resources available to the School District and HBPA, special considerations and/or accommodations can be considered.
- g. *Equipment and instrument sanitization:* Students will be advised to daily sanitize their instruments and equipment. General use equipment (ie band front equipment) will be sanitized daily. Proper instrument cleaning will be reviewed prior to the start of band camp. To the greatest extent possible, equipment and instruments will not be shared. If this does occur, equipment or instruments will be cleaned prior to use.

11. Activity Types:

- a. *Sectionals:* Sectionals are rehearsals of the various sections within the band. Social distancing will be observed during these rehearsals
- b. *Band Camp:* The primary purpose of this activity is for the band to prepare for the fall marching season and learn the half time show drill and music. It consists of a two week long rehearsal (Monday through Friday) at the high school for eight hours a day. This includes outdoor marching and drill along with indoor mass and sectional rehearsals. *Sectionals:* Sectionals are rehearsals of the various sections within the band. They are typically groups of 25 students or less. Social distancing will be observed during these rehearsals.
 - i. *Snack/Watering:* Only approved volunteers will conduct these activities. All volunteers will wear masks and gloves when completing these duties. Individual cups of water and individual snacks will be given to students during these breaks. Students will social distance when drinking and eating and not congregate. Refuse will be properly disposed.
 - ii. *Lunch:* Lunch is served in the cafeteria at mid-day and last one hour. Parent volunteers will plate and serve all meals for the students. The students will be spaced in the cafeteria per social distancing guidelines. Upon completion of lunch, the cafeteria will be cleaned by the HBPA volunteers. District cafeteria personnel are also present during each lunch period. If required, students may be divided into two lunch groups to reduce the number of people in the cafeteria at one time.
 - iii. *Outdoor activities:* During all outdoor rehearsal activities, social distancing will be observed to avoid mass congregating of students.

- iv. *Indoor activities:* During all indoor rehearsal activities, social distancing will be observed to avoid mass congregating of students. To the greatest extent possible, given space restrictions, students will be separated. When feasible, masks will be worn if students are not engaged in playing an instrument.
- c. *After School Rehearsals:* After school rehearsals are held three days a week for two hours a day in September and two days a week for two hours a day in October. The rehearsals consist of outdoor marching and drill along with indoor mass and sectional rehearsals.
 - i. *Mass meetings:* During all mass meetings, social distancing will be observed to avoid mass congregating of students. To the greatest extent possible, given space restrictions, students will be separated.
 - ii. *Sectionals:* Sectionals are rehearsals of the various sections within the band. Social distancing will be observed during these rehearsals
 - iii. *Snack/Watering:* Only approved volunteers will conduct these activities. All volunteers will wear masks and gloves when completing these duties. Individual cups of water and individual snacks will be given to students during these breaks. Students will social distance when drinking and eating and not congregate. Refuse will be properly disposed.
 - iv. *Outdoor activities:* During all outdoor rehearsal activities, social distancing will be observed to avoid mass congregating of students.
 - v. *Indoor activities:* During all indoor rehearsal activities, social distancing will be observed to avoid mass congregating of students. To the greatest extent possible, given space restrictions, students will be separated. When feasible, masks will be worn if students are not engaged in playing an instrument.
- d. *Football Games (Away and Home): (TO BE DETERMINED AFTER 20 JUL 2020)*
 - i. *Home:*
 1. *Equipment preparation, set-up and tear down:* Only approved HBPA volunteers will assist in this function and will observe all COVID health and safety protocols outlined in the plan. This will also include the sanitization of all HBPA utility vehicles and equipment.
 2. *Parade to field:* Students are already spaced for marching and will be in compliance with social distancing guidelines.
 3. *In stands:* Students will be spaced in accordance with social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible and based upon School District guidance.
 4. *Half time show:* To the greatest extent possible, student congregating will be limited prior to and after the half time show. Students are isolated and spread out on the football field and in motion during the half time show and should not pose a risk to others.
 5. *Snack/Watering:* Only approved volunteers will conduct these activities. All volunteers will wear masks and gloves when completing these duties. Individual cups of water and individual snacks will be given to students during these breaks. Students

will social distance when drinking and eating and not congregate.
Refuse will be properly disposed.

6. *Postgame:* (same as parade to field)

ii. *Away:*

1. *Equipment loading and unloading:* The HBPA Transportation Committee has a color coded load plan that divides the band in to sections. Students are called forth by section to place their instruments in order near the trailer and truck. All loading and unloading is performed by volunteers and a limited number of students. These protocols reduce the number of students and volunteers congregated in any given area.
2. *Transportation:* Based upon HASD guidance.
3. *Parade to field:* Students are already spaced for marching.
4. *In stands:* Students will be spaced in accordance with social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible and based upon School District guidance.
5. *Snack/Watering:* Only approved volunteers will conduct these activities. All volunteers will wear masks and gloves when completing these duties. Individual cups of water and individual snacks will be given to students during these breaks. Students will social distance when drinking and eating and not congregate. Refuse will be properly disposed.
6. *Half time show:* To the greatest extent possible, student congregating will be limited prior to and after the half time show. Students are isolated and spread out on the football field and in motion during the half time show and should not pose a risk to others.
7. *Postgame* (same as parade to field)
8. NOTE: Due to the various different configurations of high school football stadiums, some protocols may need to be modified due to unforeseen situations and circumstances beyond control of the HASB and also guidance set forth by the hosting School District.

e. *Band Festivals:* (TO BE DETERMINED AFTER 20 JUL 2020)

i. *Hosting:*

1. *Equipment preparation, set-up and tear down:* The HBPA Transportation Committee has a color coded load plan that divides the band in to sections. Students are called forth by section to place their instruments in order near the trailer and truck. All loading and unloading is performed by volunteers and a limited number of students. These protocols reduce the number of students and volunteers congregated in any given area.
2. *Parade to field:* Students are already spaced for marching.
3. *In stands:* Students will be spaced in accordance with social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible and based upon School District guidance.
4. *Half time show:* To the greatest extent possible, student congregating will be limited prior to and after the half time show.

Students are isolated and spread out on the football field and in motion during the half time show and should not pose a risk to others.

5. *Snack/Watering*: Only approved volunteers will conduct these activities. All volunteers will wear masks and gloves when completing these duties. Individual cups of water and individual snacks will be given to students during these breaks. Students will social distance when drinking and eating and not congregate. Refuse will be properly disposed.

6. *Postgame*: (same as parade to field)

- ii. Participation: (same as away game protocols)

- f. *Parades*: (same as away game protocols) (TO BE DETERMINED AFTER 20 JUL 2020)
- g. *Travel (Band Trips)* The HASB is planning to travel to Hawaii in March 2021. Due to the complexities associated with this action, a separate health and safety protocol plan will be submitted in conjunction with the request of approval for travel to the School Board.
- h. *Monthly HBPA Executive Council Meetings*: All HBPA Executive Council meetings will be conducted in the mini theater. Masks will be worn during the meeting as well as strict adherence to social distancing guidelines during the meeting.
- i. *Monthly HBPA Band Parent Meetings*: All band parent meetings will be held in the high school cafeteria. Masks will be worn during the meeting as well as strict adherence to social distancing guidelines during the meeting.
- j. *Sub Sales*: The HBPA already adheres to food safety preparation guidelines and requires the use of hairnets and gloves by all participants when preparing subs. Additionally, all participants will be required to wear masks while preparing subs. When and where feasible social distancing guidelines will be in place. Temperature checks will occur prior to the start of every sub sale for all participants. (note: a separate health and safety plan will be submitted 9 JUL 2020 for the conduct of sub sales.)
- k. *Car Cruise*: A separate health and safety plan has been submitted to the district for approval and will be published upon approval.

12. Changes in current PA COVID State Restriction Level: If in the event, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would degrade the current level to Yellow or Red, Zoom meetings will resume for all HBPA meetings. If and when all restrictions are lifted, all social distancing guidelines will cease.

13. Plan Review:

- a. Per HASD Superintendent, this plan will be reviewed again and subject to amendment pending the 20 JULY 2020 HASD School Board meeting.
- b. This plan will be reviewed monthly during the HBPA executive council meeting to verify changes that are required due to any updates or revisions to COVID safety protocols by Federal, State, Local or School District requirements or guidance. If any changes are made to this plan, the HASB/HBPA will provide the Administration and the School Board a revised copy.

- 14. End State:** When it is deemed safe by the School District to resume normal activities, the HASB will petition the School District to cease all COVID protocols in place. At such time this plan will be revoked and public notification made to all faculty, staff, students, parents and volunteers.
- 15. Points of Contact:** Points of contact for this plan are Mr. Brian Tychinski, Director of Bands, tychinskib@hasdpa.net, 724-331-5797 and Mr. Robert Bojarski, HBPA President, Pres@hempfieldareaband.org, 412-901-1128.

Brian Tychinski
Director of Bands
Hempfield Area Spartan Band

Robert T. Bojarski
President
Hempfield Band Parent's Assoc.

