Recommendations for Reopening Theatre Classrooms & Theatre Facilities
(As of July 22, 2020)

The categories for consideration are:
- Personal Safety Protocols
- Rehearsals & Performances
- Shared Materials
- Scene Shops
- PACs & Facilities

Personal Safety Protocols
- All personal belongings must be labeled.
- Masks are required at all times.
- There can be no shared water or food.
  - All water bottles shall have a secure cap/top and must be labeled with a permanent marker; all food should be labeled.
  - Allow for students to take breaks outside (weather permitting) with social distancing practices for food/beverages
- Shared technology procedures should be put in place to avoid lines for technology when in the classroom (portable devices, headphones, and etc.). Each item should be disinfected properly at the end of its use.

Rehearsals & Performances

General Guidelines
- Directors should check temperatures before each rehearsal or performance.
- Attendance records shall be kept.
- Extracurricular rehearsal times limited to two (2) hours to prevent extending activities while in protective masks.

Risk Mitigation
- Students shall report to practices and rehearsals in proper attire and immediately return home to change clothes or shower at the end of the session.
- During practices and rehearsals, staff must ensure appropriate social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures are implemented.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to wash or disinfect their hands frequently.
- All surfaces in practice and rehearsal areas must be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
- No clothing or costume materials may be shared during rehearsals.
- There can be no shared water or food.
- Students who are not actively practicing shall wear cloth face masks.
Furniture and Stage Dressings
- Hard surface items that can easily be sanitized should be used.
- All surface areas of furniture should be wiped down at the beginning and end of each use.
- Social distancing protocols should be used when staging furniture or other set items, if possible.
- Scenic items that are to be moved on and off stage should only be done with a single source operation.

Costuming
- Costumes, wigs, or makeup will not be shared between cast members. Should there be understudies for the lead actor, separate costumes, wigs, and makeup should be provided.
- Costumes should be cleaned and laundered prior to student check out or use.
- Wigs and costumes should be sanitized after each rehearsal.
- Dry cleaning is recommended for all costumes and textiles that are used in productions and will be returned to the costume or prop storage.
- Costuming rooms and costume construction rooms should have limited access if possible.

Props
- Prop tables will be wiped down before and after each performance.
- Props will be disinfected before and after use.
- Only designated actors and designated props crew will be allowed to touch the props and props crew members shall wear gloves to handle props used by actors.

Musical Theatre
- No dance activities should be allowed that require direct or indirect contact including partnering, tactile cueing, direct floor work, touching the same equipment, or traveling across the floor.
- Areas should be well-ventilated should dancing occur.

Shared Materials
- Students should not share scripts or other paper rehearsal materials.
- Scripts and other materials, if sent home to students, may not be able to return back to the classroom. It is suggested to have a plan in place to accommodate (e.g. making copies for school and home use).
- Textbooks, if used, should be provided to students without digital access.
- It is possible, textbooks should not be transported to and from school. Allow for copies to stay at home.
- All rehearsal paperwork and scripts should be kept in a plastic binder that can be wiped down after each use.
- Computers, tablets, or other electronic devices should not be shared.
- Supplies such as hot glue guns, sewing machines, scissors, straight pins, paintbrushes, Exacto knives, rulers, measuring tapes, etc. should be disinfected before and after use, and should be checked out to the student via a single-source procedure.

Scene Shops
Tool use and application for Technical Theatre shall follow all safety protocols for the specific tool operation including but not limited to:
- Clean area of operation
- Proper safety goggles and masks
- Ventilated areas for material debris from lumber or paints
- Access to eye washing station should an accident occur
- Posted signs for tool safety

- Designate one person/staff member to establish a single-source equipment process to limit multiple students handling tools/equipment; all tools/equipment should be sanitized after each use. A record of tool use should be kept.
- Schools should limit the use of equipment/tools to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
- All equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before and after each use. If a student uses a piece of equipment, that equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before another student uses it.

**PACs & Facilities**

**Social Distancing & Space Allocation**
Please see The State of Texas’s [Recommended Health Protocols for Fine Arts Performance Halls/Patrons](#).

Per Governor Abbott’s guidelines **as of July 2020:**

**Microphones and Communication Headsets**
- Sound operating consoles should be cleaned prior to each use with alcohol wipes and after contact has been made by an individual.
- Students should not share lavalier or other voice amplification equipment. In the event that a student would have to share a microphone/headset, proper cleaning and sanitization of all parts of the equipment are required.

**Lighting Equipment**
- Masks, gloves, and eye protection should be worn while handling lighting equipment.
- Students should not share gloves or protective gear for the duration of the lesson.
- School provided safety gear should be sanitized after each use.
- Alcohol wipes should be used after changing the lamps in instruments. Hand sanitizer is not recommended on lamps for theatrical lighting.
- Spotlights and other hand-operated instruments should be cleaned before and after each use.
- Lightboard consoles should be cleaned prior to each use with alcohol wipes and after contact has been made by an individual.
- One operator should have exclusive access to lightboards at a time and social distancing should be adhered to while in the booth or command station.
- Any ladder, scaffolding, or elevation devices used should be sanitized before and after each use.
- Limit student access to grids, alcoves, and catwalks.

**Draperies and Soft Goods -**
- Curtains, drapes, and other flown soft goods should be flown out if possible during rehearsal.
- If curtains or soft goods cannot be flown out, safely secure a plastic barrier (trashbags) around the softgoods.
Students should not touch any curtain or soft goods without proper masks, long sleeve shirts, gloves, and protective eyewear.

**Fly rail and rigging systems**
- Limit the number of students in this area for social distancing
- Students should never operate a fly system or rigging without director/teacher present
- All locking rails should be sanitized before and after use
- Gloves and eye protection should be worn at all times while operating rigging equipment.