

From COFAC:

The TU masking protocols -- <https://www.towson.edu/about/administration/policies/masking-protocols.html> -- has listed some exceptions to mask wearing that directly impact our disciplines. These exceptions include: “playing a wind instrument while practicing physical distancing; and performing a strenuous exercise required by a course syllabus, including but not limited to, dancing and/or singing while practicing physical distancing” (this could also include acting, debate, speech, and audio recording as other examples).

While we understand the intent of these exceptions – to allow performing, communication, and media arts to engage in necessary activities – they do not fully recognize best practice guidelines from professional organizations. Consequently, each department and unit in COFAC will provide discipline specific mask-wearing protocols. These protocols will be in place for your safety and the safety of our community. Also, please recognize that all protocols are subject to ongoing review and modification in response to updated pandemic information.

From the Department of Music:

- TU is following the health and safety recommendations of federal, state, local and university guidelines. Guidelines for health and safety on campus can be found by following the link below.
- <https://www.towson.edu/coronavirus/tigers-care/>
- Additionally, the Department of Music is requiring that ***all instrumentalists*** and ***vocalists*** wear a mask while playing or singing with few exceptions as outlined in section B of the TU Mask policy <https://www.towson.edu/about/administration/policies/masking-protocols.html>. Special masks for winds and brass players will be provided to students. A common surgical mask with a small slit for the mouthpiece may also be used. Additionally, bell covers will be provided to wind & brass students and faculty. A mask pattern for an easy homemade singer’s mask can be found at: <https://seekatesew.com/3d-mask-template/> or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Im_uQOtSCe8 or students may elect to purchase a singer’s mask from one of two known manufactures of such items: <https://www.mymusicfolders.com/product/resonance-singers-mask-with-disposable-biofilters/> or <https://www.broadwayreliefproject.com/singersmask>, Check with your applied teacher and/or ensemble director regarding the best styles for your instrument/voice.
- Mask policies for music making apply to all students regardless of indoor or outdoor activities where music making is occurring.
- Even in rehearsals, lessons, coaching or classes occurring outdoors, mask use and physical distancing protocols must still be followed.
- Under **no** circumstances should anyone take off their mask during applied lessons.
- **All masks used in music making activities must fit securely around the nose and mouth, under the chin, and mitigate aerosols at facial contact points as much as possible. Bandana style masks that allow large volumes of air to escape around**

the bottom or sides of the mask are *not* permitted for any activity that requires music making of any type.

- The addition of a face shield *with* an approved mask is recommended but not required.
- Remember this physical distance “combination” for all activities within the Department of Music:

6' – **six-feet apart** as a **general rule with mask on** for **all** music making/learning that does not move a significant volume of air (strings, guitar, piano, composition, music technology, lecture classes, normal speaking).

12' – **twelve-feet apart** as a general rule for **wind and brass** instruments that move a significant volume of air **and** using a bell cover on the instrument. However, winds and brass should plan to wear a special mask (one provided to you) with a pillow slit (overlapping opening) for the mouthpiece.]Additional room ventilation/air exchange time should be factored into the rehearsal or lesson.

20' – **twenty-feet apart** for **singers** as a general rule. Singers should plan wear a singer’s mask or other appropriate mask with more space in front of the mouth and one that holds its shape. Additional room ventilation/air exchange time should be factored into the rehearsal or lesson.