



At Kids' Orchestra (KO), our number one priority is the safety of your child(ren). Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, KO will adhere to the following guidelines, adopted from the CDC, for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, KO will be following the guidelines of our partner schools/districts and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE).

Staying home when sick and getting tested: Children and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of programs and prevent spread to others. It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. **If you are quarantining/isolating during the school day, you may not attend KO programming.** For more information on what to do if you or your child are sick, please refer to the [CDC guidelines on Quarantining and Isolation](#).

Consistent and correct mask use: All Kids' Orchestra **students and staff**, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear masks during KO programming. Students may remove their masks while eating but will put them back on as soon as they are finished. Exceptions to the mask mandate will be allowed for students and staff who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)(42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Written documentation of said disability must be provided to KO staff before a mask mandate exception can be made.

Instrument Selection: In an effort to follow the new updated state guidelines and current restrictions from the LDOE, Kids' Orchestra will not be offering wind instruments (flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone) at our in-person sites for the foreseeable future. KO is working to stay up to date on these guidelines. We are making this decision to keep students, families, and our teachers safe.

In the meantime, wind instrument private lessons will be offered virtually through KO@Home. In-person private lesson options can be discussed upon request.

Singing during programming: Singing is an important skill to learn and practice for any musician. As such, singing will still be a part of Kids' Orchestra programming for our Foundations classes as well as many of our instrumental classes. However, all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear masks while participating in any singing activities.

Physical Distancing and cohorting: KO programming will, to the greatest extent possible, adhere to CDC recommendations for physical distancing and cohorting.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: KO programming will require all students and staff to practice appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine: If your child has been exposed to or infected with COVID-19, please call the Kids' Orchestra office immediately at 225.922.4656 so we can begin contract tracing and prevent the spread of this disease.

Cleaning and disinfecting: KO will adhere to all cleaning and disinfecting procedures as required by the schools in which we hold in-person programming.

Dismissal Procedures: KO will adhere to all dismissal procedures as required by the schools in which we hold in-person programming. By and large, this will mean that we will not allow parents in the buildings. Specific instructions on how dismissal will be handled at your child's school will be communicated with you directly.