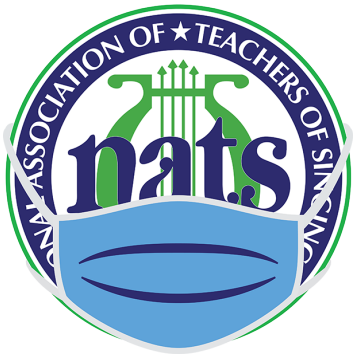




Reopening, unmasking, & face-to-face teaching

April '21 guidance for singing with
NATS Executive Director Allen Henderson





Disclaimers



I am not a medical doctor. You should seek official medical advice from your preferred medical provider

This information is based on data available as of today, April 16, 2021. Data available after this date could impact these recommendations.

This is primarily based on data in the United States so guidance may vary throughout the world.

Happy World Voice Day!



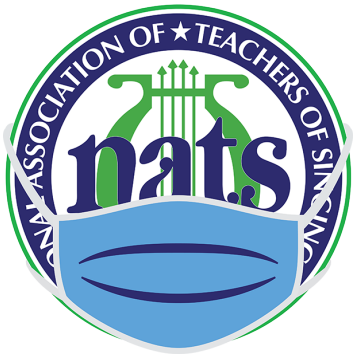


Re-entry Self Reflection



A year plus of isolation has its impacts!

1. What are my personal feelings about re-engaging face to face with my students/clients/colleagues/choir members/professional and social groups?
2. What are my personal feelings about re-engaging one-on-one, in small groups, or in large groups?
3. How do my personal feelings intersect with my professional obligations?
4. What is my personal level of risk? Am I risk tolerant or risk averse?
5. How has my vaccination status changed my frame of reference?



What do we know?

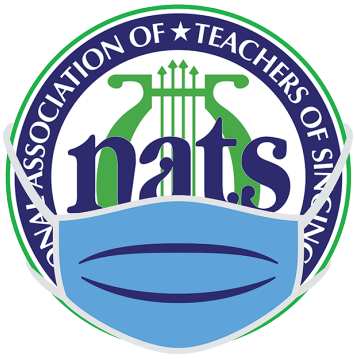


- Colorado Study

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>

New resources as of this week include:

- a prepublication paper on the study (40 pp)
- [Safer Schools and Campuses: U.S. Department of Education Clearinghouse for Best Practices for Music Education Submission Template](#)



What do we know?



March 19th

- CDC removed recommendation to use physical barriers in classrooms, reiterated 6ft. distancing for music making and adherence to masking.
- The Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study adjusted outdoor rehearsals/performances to 60 minute length (previously 30 minutes)

KEEPING ARTS ED SAFE AT SCHOOL

MASK Everything!



TIMING


| OUTDOOR | INDOORS |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playing Instruments, Singing, Acting, or Dancing (<i>Masks strongly recommended</i>)• 60 30 minute blocks with 6ft spacing• 5 minute pause between blocks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playing Instruments, Singing, Acting, or Dancing (<i>Masks required</i>)• 30 minutes with 6 ft spacing• Minimum one air change between class |

MATERIALS MATTER



2 LAYERS or more of DENSE FABRIC
for instruments

WELL-FITTING MASKS
for students




Proper HYGIENE



Instruments
Spaces
People

AIRFLOW / FILTRATION



Good ventilation and air change rate for the space.



What are we waiting for?



We have been waiting for answers to two questions:

1. When fully vaccinated can I still be a carrier?
2. Are the current vaccines effective against the emerging variants?



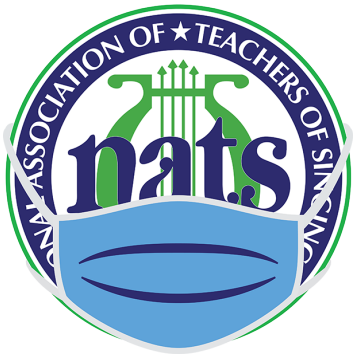
When fully vaccinated can I still be a carrier?



- Although COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting sick, scientists **are still learning** how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others, even if you do not have symptoms. **Early data show the vaccines do help** keep people with no symptoms from spreading COVID-19, but we are learning more as more people get vaccinated. (CDC website)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>

<https://www.prevention.com/health/a35429396/can-you-spread-covid-19-after-vaccine/>



Are the current vaccines effective against the emerging variants?



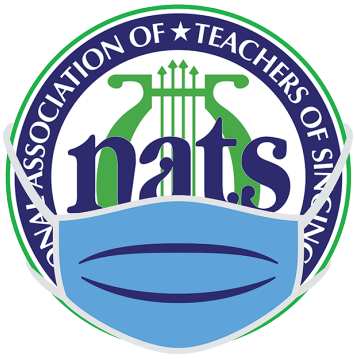
- Several studies released very recently continue to support a YES answer to this question

Nothing is 100% effective but all vaccines currently are highly effective against current variants and greatly lower the risk.

Should any of us be in the unfortunate group that does contract a variant it is highly likely that being vaccinated will prevent hospitalization and serious complications.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/15/well/live/covid-variants-vaccine.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/politics/100000007711921/Fauci-vaccines-highly-effective-against-UK-coronavirus-variant.html>

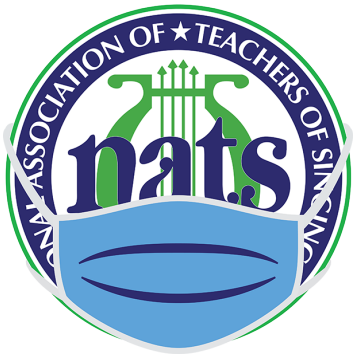


Fully Vaccinated?



- One of the quickest ways for us all to return with certain safety is to get vaccinated and encourage our students/clients/colleagues/family/friends to get vaccinated.
- Encourage, check in, send messages to parents of clients age 16 and over.
- Use our #fightthefatigue graphics and messaging





Dr. Fauci Says....



- A recent CNN interviewer asked him what he is comfortable doing now that he is fully vaccinated
 - Eat at a restaurant outdoors
 - Eat at a restaurant indoors (look at the level of infection in your area)
 - Attend a Washington Nationals game outdoors
- “Being vaccinated, the risk is very low now. People must make the determination of what level of risk they are willing to take.”
- The CDC will continue to add to guidance for settings such as places of worship and work settings much like they released the travel guidelines recently. Between these times vaccinated individuals are going to have to make the determination about their level of comfort with various activities knowing that the risk is not zero but very low.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/health/2021/04/12/dr-anthony-fauci-going-out-vaccinated-tsr-vpx.cnn>

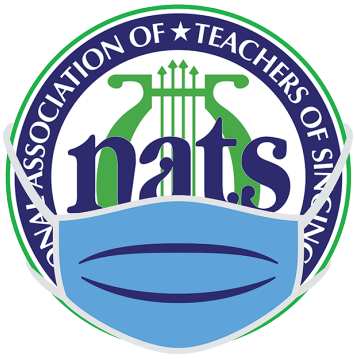


dium or large gatherings



How do these impact our teaching?

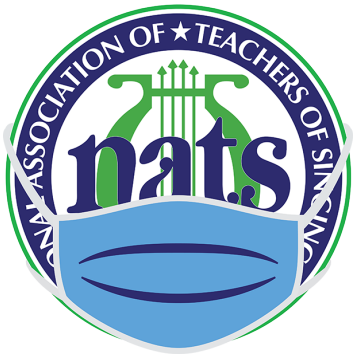
- Let's be honest and admit that many have chosen to teach with varying protocols throughout the pandemic. While most have chosen a very risk averse path, others have chosen an extremely risk tolerant path. Throughout the entire range of settings individuals have contracted COVID-19.
- Among those who have followed the protocols from the coalition there have been no reported cases of spread within rehearsals even when an individual in a rehearsal was later determined to be positive.



One on One Teaching



- Are your lessons equal to visiting another vaccinated person or inviting another vaccinated person into your home? Might one or both of you be maskless?
- If you are vaccinated, are your lessons equal to inviting another unvaccinated individual or family into your home who is not at risk for severe illness? Many children are not and may not be vaccinated for quite awhile.
- How do you answer these based on your personal risk tolerance?
- Are there steps in between that allow you more comfort?
- Have you developed a complete plan or multiple plans to reopen?
- Previous guidance from us suggested that you develop and effectively communicate your complete plan to reopen to your clients/students. Those who have done this indicate fewer complaints from parents and students to return prematurely to face to face lessons.



Places of Worship



- Reports of paid singers being pressured to perform or risk losing their job
- Pressure among older vaccinated members/leaders to return to worship and singing
- Significant groups who have chosen to flaunt any restrictions at all
- Is EVERYONE in your group fully vaccinated?
- Are we going to be exclusive and allow only vaccinated individuals to rehearse?
- What is our responsibility to the faith community we have built?
- Most data and guidance still supports following current protocols for medium and large groups

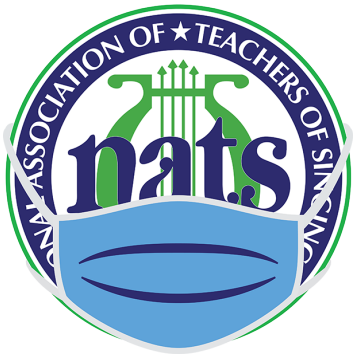


Places of Worship



Interim Steps

- Soloists
- Duets, trios, quartets
- Outdoor rehearsals, worship
- Multiple indoor spaces in which to rehearse in 30 minute blocks
- Streaming will continue for the foreseeable future so make sure you have the equipment to broadcast your mode of singing.
- Successful places of worship long ago developed metrics for when certain activities will return based on data, vaccination rates, infection rates in the community... Anecdotal evidence suggests that those who have effectively communicated the frameworks have higher trust levels and fewer complaints from those who desire to return.



K-12 and Higher Ed Settings



- Institutional policies will continue to drive any return to pre-COVID modes of teaching.
- Inevitably some of what we have learned about effective modes of teaching will continue to be used post-COVID.
- Growing list of universities requiring vaccination for fall. Unfortunately most are private institutions.
- We can and must continue to advocate for safety and also realize that there will be MANY paths to return to pre-pandemic settings due to divergent rates of vaccination, testing and tracing, community spread, and ventilation rates in facilities. Continue to follow the science.

Summer Programs/Opera/Musical Theatre

- Every major summer program that is operating has developed elaborate protocols and manuals, and many are driven by union requirements.
- If your student is attending a summer program, chances are many hours have been invested in creating as safe an environment as possible. At your earliest opportunity, thank your contacts at these programs for their diligence and heroic work in creating a safe environment in which to make art.
- Discussions are ongoing about the next audition season.

May 1 Early Registration Deadline!!

A close-up photograph of a lit sparkler, with bright orange and yellow sparks radiating outwards against a dark background. The sparkler is positioned on the left side of the banner.

2021 NATS SUMMER WORKSHOP
Lighting the Spark:
Inspiring Diverse Repertoire
JULY 8-10, 2021

MENTORED TEACHING EXPERIENCE • NATS NATIONAL STUDENT AUDITIONS

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

