

ARTS ED NJ

DATE: November 17, 2020

TO: All New Jersey Arts Educators, Administrators, Principals, Superintendents, Executive County Superintendents, School Board Members, Health Officers

FROM: Robert B. Morrison, Arts Ed NJ

SUBJECT: University of Colorado Aerosol Dispersion in Music Study Third Preliminary Findings - September Ready Arts Education Guidance Update Number 3

CC: Governor Phil Murphy, Commissioner of Health Judith M. Persichilli, Acting Commissioner of Education Angelica Allen-McMillan, New Jersey State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg, LEE Group, NJDOE Reopen Team.

Arts Ed NJ is part of an international coalition of more than 125 organizations supporting the COVID-19 Aerosol Dispersion Study being conducted at the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland led by the distinguished researchers Dr. Shelly Miller and Dr. Jelena Srebric, respectively, and commissioned by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the Collegiate Band Directors National Association. The NFHS is the national governing body for scholastic athletics (including NJSIAA) and the performing arts. Arts Ed NJ has been working closely with the NFHS on this research. We are entering month 5 of a 6-month study, utilizing two independent labs at the University of Colorado – Boulder and the University of Maryland. As the third update to the **September Ready Fall 2020 Arts Education Guidance** released in August, we are providing these updated preliminary results released on November 13, 2020 to help further inform the development of your operating plans for the visual and performing arts. Additional findings will be sent to you as they are released.

Key Finding: Instrumental, Vocal and General Classroom Music, Theatre, Speech, Debate and Dance classes and activities may be held in person following proper mitigation.

- [Link to the Arts Ed NJ Fall 2020 Guidance for Arts Education](#)
- [Link to the Aerosol Study results](#)
- [Link to Researcher Conversation of Results](#)

From the research team: *These results are preliminary and will be further defined as the study continues. This study focuses strictly on the distribution of respiratory aerosols that are released while playing wind and brass instruments, singing, acting, speaking, dancing, and during a simulated aerobic activity. This study did not use a live virus and therefore cannot be used to determine specific infection rates. However, this study is based on previous research that shows the virus which causes COVID-19 can travel in respiratory aerosol. This study was designed to (1) identify performing arts activities that generate respiratory aerosols including volume, direction, density, and mitigation strategies. Aerosol is defined as solid or liquid particles suspended in a gas.*