

Overview of 2021 Health Policy for Music Together with Pakachoag

Updated 8/12/2021

Over a year forward from when we moved Music Together classes online, we took first steps this summer towards in-person classes with our outdoor Music & Movement samplers. We are preparing for continued progress towards in-person activities through both indoor and outdoor classes with consideration to health and safety needs of both teachers and families. Decisions are also subject to any requirements of the partner organizations who provide space for Music Together and Rhythm Kids classes.

We have revised our health policy using the guidance from the CDC about best practices to prevent the spread of all germs and ensure your continued health and well-being.

We ask for your help in keeping all the members of our musical community healthy by following these protocols. Our classes may have immune-compromised individuals (including pregnant women) who may be more susceptible to viral respiratory infections, including influenza and COVID-19, so your vigilance and adherence to this health policy is extremely important. Our teachers reserve the right to send a family home from class if they feel these sickness protocols are not being followed.

While some participants and teachers may have completed the vaccination process, we will operate under the assumption that some members of our music classes and community may not yet be vaccinated.

How we operate and this policy is subject to update as we stay abreast of state and national health recommendations related to COVID-19, vaccinations, and COVID-19 variants.

In-Person Protocols: Indoor & Outdoor Classes

Indoor classes will be scheduled in a larger-than-usual space to allow for social distancing requirements and proper ventilation. Teachers will clean and sanitize all classroom surfaces before and after each class.

- **A COVID-19 Arrival SIGN-IN for In-Person Activities form must be completed upon arrival to each class.** These will be available on clipboards at each “participation pod” and are to be submitted, with clipboard, to the teacher-designated area before class start.
- **Masks are required of all attendees over the age of 2.** Exceptions are made for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition and for children under the age of 2.
- **Always maintain a distance of 6 feet from other families.** While stationary “participation pods” for each family will be designated at the start of class, group movement activities around the room/area are used as part of the curriculum. If a child wanders toward others, grownups are expected to bring them back to their “pod” for more musical fun. We know that it’s not developmentally appropriate to expect children to stay in one place/not wander during class; however, it’s essential that we take extra care to keep one another safe during this time.
- **Families are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and tissues.** While we will have these items available, as needed, we ask families to help by bringing their own items due to possible market shortages affecting our stock.

Pakachoag Music School: Music Together and COVID-19

- **Families must bring their own home instruments to each class.** Please bring a set for both the participating child(ren) and adult. Instrument needs will be communicated by the teacher in advance of class.
- **All children must be accompanied to the bathroom.** Please monitor and wipe down with sanitizing wipes all surfaces touched/used during your visit. Wipes can be taken home or disposed of in waste baskets. Please be sure hands are washed for 20 seconds before leaving the bathroom.
Note for outdoor classes: bathrooms may not be available at outdoor locations.

Additional Family Health Practices

We ask that all adults and children wash or sanitize their hands before and after class for at least 20 seconds. (Sing the “Hello Song” to all the members of your family: that’ll be at least 20 seconds!) **Please arrive a few minutes early to allow time for this.**

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Please take used tissues home with you. If coughing or sneezing, please immediately clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol or wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Wave instead of shaking hands or hugging.

Illness Policy

If you or your child is sick, **please stay home** until you are fully recovered. If you or your child has had a fever, you must be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without assistance of fever-reducing medication) before returning to class.

If you or your child becomes ill with something contagious after you were in class, please email info@pakmusic.org to let us know right away.

Make-Up Policies • Outdoor & Remote Transfers

One make-up class is available per session, typically a Saturday morning at or towards the end of each session. This class will be held in-person unless class size, health/safety concerns, and/or other conditions require a remote transfer. If circumstances warrant flexibility, families may be allowed to carry over make-ups to a future session.

If the CDC, state/local guidelines, and/or our partnering organizations require in-person, indoor activities to cease due to COVID-19 and/or variants, classes will transfer to outdoor session (weather and/or space permitting) or remote sessions at the same day and time as scheduled in-person classes (links provided in advance). If classes are transferred to outdoors, we strongly recommend bringing a large waterproof tablecloth and/or a thick blanket to stay dry on your participation pod.

Questions?

Schedules & Make-Ups: *Chris Wychorski, Registrar* – Chris@pakmusic.org

Class Questions & Health Policies: *Kristjon Imperio, Director of Programs & Outreach* – Kristjon@pakmusic.org