



Colleagues,

As many of you are aware, the Louisiana Department of Education has issued an updated FAQ pertaining to the reopening of Louisiana schools for the fall semester. In the updated document, guidance continues to shift in a variety of ways.

Rather than gaining clarity, administrators and music teachers across the state are experiencing “less” rather than “more” understanding on how music education classes will operate during the reopening of school.

The most recent LDOE update indicates “Band and Choir should not occur indoors during Phase 2 and 3, but may occur if they take place outside with social distancing measures in place.”

The Louisiana Music Educators Association is working in conjunction with the National Association for Music Education and the National Federation of High Schools. All three organizations are anxiously awaiting the formal results of a national study on aerosol disbursement in Band and Choir activities. Within the next two weeks, we hope to have sufficient scientific evidence to move forward in appealing for changes in guidance, not only in Louisiana, but across the nation.

While we wait for scientific evidence, I am working with various LMEA members and local school officials to establish a meeting with LDOE. In this meeting, we will (1) seek to discover LDOE’s reasoning for their current guidance and (2) present our case for indoor music rehearsals/classes with appropriate social distancing rules in place.

I ask that you remain resilient and proactive. Please remain positive and compliant with guidelines. I also ask that you continue to explore all avenues to influence change. As teachers we understand that safety is of the utmost importance. We will do all that must be done to insure that for our children and schools.

Scotty Walker, President
Louisiana Music Educators Association