



# Safety Policies for In-Person Music Together Classes

UVMC has developed safety policies based on guidance from the CDC, the states of New Hampshire and Vermont, and the City of Lebanon.

When considering an in-person Music Together class, the following conditions apply:

- While we encourage everyone who can to get vaccinated, approximately half of participants (all children) attending a Music Together class are too young and unable to be vaccinated,
- It's not safe for children under age 2 to wear masks, and since that includes at least some participants in a Music Together class, we can't ensure universal masking at any class.

Given the vaccination and masking contexts for Music Together classes, the following health protocols will apply:

- Following CDC recommendations, children age 2 and up will be required to wear masks
  - While we will ask all children ages 2 and older to wear a mask, we also recognize that keeping a mask properly in place for children of this age is a challenge. We ask that parents make a good faith effort to manage their children's mask wearing during classes.
- All participants will be screened prior to attending, and anyone who has shown symptoms, traveled out of the country, or been in contact with a confirmed COVID case will be asked to stay home
- Classes will be offered outdoors only at this time, to provide maximum ventilation.
- Class size will be limited.
- Class time will be limited (45 minutes maximum) to reduce time spent in proximity to others
- UVMC will provide hand sanitizer and will sanitize all surfaces between classes
  - Instruments will be sorted ahead of time so that each family either brings their own or receives a family set of instruments to be used in class, which won't be shared with other families.

Under certain circumstances singing can create more aerosolization than regular talking. The level of aerosolization is affected by the volume of singing and the amount of breath expelled. The following protocols will apply regarding singing:

- All adults and children 2 and older will remain masked while singing
- Teachers will be provided with amplification to reduce the need to project their voices
- Parents will be asked to sing quietly, no louder than a normal talking voice.

Given the vaccination and masking context for Music Together classes, the need for distancing becomes more important. All participants will maintain 10' distance during classes. Families will be asked to Bring Your Own Blanket and family members should stay on the blanket during class. We recognize that this may be a challenge with toddlers especially, and we will all work together (parents, teacher, and support staff) to help children stay in their safe space.

We know that the parameters for these classes may not work for every family at this time. We ask that you carefully consider the requirements for these classes (distancing, masking, etc), and register only if you are comfortable with them for you and your child.

UVMC will continue to offer a Zoom class option for our youngest music-makers and their families, so that those who do not yet feel ready to gather in-person, or for whom the in-person class parameters are not the right fit, will still have the ability to access this program and continue making music together.

We plan to reassess necessary health precautions for each new term of Music Together and will update plans according to current public health guidelines, prioritizing the health of students and families. We look forward to making music together!