

In-Person Transition Info Sheet

Last Updated December 14, 2021



Our Guiding Principles

As we transition interested students back to in-person lessons **our number one priority will always be the safety and health of our students, faculty, and staff.** Effective learning can only be accomplished if these fundamental needs have been met. Our decision making has been, and always will be, guided by the latest scientific data and research, as well as the feedback provided by our faculty and students. **Students will not be required to return to in-person lessons before they feel ready,** and will have the option to continue online lessons for as long as they wish. We are so grateful for your support and patience, and we are excited to see you in-person when you're ready!

Timelines

When will in-person private lessons be offered?

Starting in January 2022, we will be offering in-person group classes, and private lessons for all instruments. This transition date is contingent on the Austin area remaining below Stage 5 of Austin Public Health's [risk-based guidelines](#).

Can students keep taking online lessons if they wish to do so?

Yes! Students will have the option to continue online private lessons and/or group classes for as long as they wish. We are proud of our online program, and will be happy to deliver the same quality online education that you've come to expect until you are comfortable enough to return to in-person lessons.

Health and Safety Protocols

After months of researching CDC guidelines, consulting with doctors, and reviewing steps taken by other schools, as well as collecting feedback from parents, students, and teachers, we have decided on the safety protocols below. These protocols may evolve over time as more research becomes available. Teachers, students, and staff will be notified in advance of any possible changes.

Any teacher offering in-person lessons will be fully vaccinated, and all administrative staff will be fully vaccinated before working in-person.

- Many of our students commented that having their teachers vaccinated was an important factor in their comfort returning to in-person lessons. Additionally, over 75% of students stated that they were concerned about potentially spreading Covid-19 to their teachers, so we are grateful for safe and effective vaccines that help our teachers come back to in-person teaching while reducing their risk!

Face masks will be worn by students, teachers, and staff at all times during lessons and in common areas.

- In addition to this being the guideline set out by the CDC, over 80% of students and 80% of teachers stated that wearing face masks during lessons was very important in making them feel comfortable returning to in-person lessons.

Hand sanitizer will be abundantly available for all students and teachers.

- Over 75% of students and 70% of teachers stated that hand sanitizer application/general hand hygiene was important in making them feel comfortable returning to in-person lessons.

We will limit the occupancy of the building to below 50% of our normal capacity while Austin is at or above Stage 2. In order to ensure this, common areas will be closed and parents will be asked to remain outside during their student's regular lessons. Parents may observe their student's lesson live via Zoom.

- While we know that parent observation of the student's lesson is important for parents, students, and teachers, over 85% of students and over 75% of teachers stated that limiting the number of people inside our buildings was important to them feeling comfortable returning to in-person lessons. We are grateful that we have perfected our systems of providing access to lessons online via Zoom over the past year and a half, so that parents may still observe their student's lesson and interact with their teacher in real time. This option also expands the opportunity for parents or other guardians not present at the location to observe the student's lesson if they wish.

Common areas will be periodically sanitized throughout the day.

- Staff will be responsible for disinfecting surfaces in common areas throughout the day. This includes door knobs, counters and tabletops, outdoor chairs, and bathroom faucets.

We have installed the Dust Free Active Pure air purification system that works by filtering air and ionized particles through a UV-C light that kills viruses and bacteria.

- This same system has been installed in schools, daycare facilities, a dentist office, and an urgent care clinic by our HVAC provider. Test results show this filtration system to be 99.7% effective in the reduction of the SARS-COVID-2 (Covid-19) virus within 20 minutes. For specifics on how this system was tested visit [HERE](#).
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Response Plans

What happens if there is a surge in cases after Orpheus re-opens to in-person lessons?

- Once in-person lessons are offered, Orpheus will closely monitor the [risk-based guidelines](#) for the Austin area to ensure that in-person lessons continue to be a safe option for students and teachers. As long as Austin remains below stage 5 we will continue to offer in-person private lessons and group classes. If the Austin area enters Stage 5, in-person private lessons and group classes will be suspended and online lessons will resume until 2 weeks after Austin enters Stage 4. No matter what, we will always communicate with our students in advance of any changes to their schedule.

What happens if a student or teacher exhibits symptoms of illness?

- Students and parents are expected to perform a daily health check before coming to Orpheus. As part of this daily health check students and parents will ask themselves, “in the past 24 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms:”
 - Fever?
 - Chills?
 - Cough?
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
 - Fatigue/have been unusually tired?
 - Headache?
 - Muscle or body aches?
 - New loss of taste or smell?
 - Sore throat?
 - Congestion or runny nose?
 - Nausea or vomiting?
 - Diarrhea?
 - Not feeling well in general?

- If the answer is 'yes', then we ask that the student stays home and participates in online lessons until the student/parent is fever free for at least 24 hours (without fever inducing medication). You may contact the front desk to arrange an online lesson for that week. We also recommend that the student/parent gets a [Covid-19 test](#) whenever possible.
- Similarly, teachers and staff members will be conducting daily health checks and will not be coming to work if they are exhibiting any of the above symptoms. For this reason, a student's in-person lesson may be rescheduled as an online lesson at any point. They will be contacted in advance if this occurs.

What happens if a student is exposed to Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid-19?

- We ask that any student/parent who has been exposed to Covid-19 stays home and participates in online lessons until the student/parent receives a negative Covid-19 test. You may contact the front desk to arrange an online lesson for that week.
- If a student, or household member of a student, tests positive for Covid-19 we will notify all of the students and teachers who came to the building on that day. All lessons and classes taught by any teacher who had contact with that student will be conducted online for at least two weeks.

How to Sign Up For In-Person Lessons

1. Once in-person lessons are available current students should first discuss the transition with their private teacher.
 2. Their teacher will then arrange for them to be sent an online in-person lesson agreement form.
 3. After the parent or student signs the agreement form, our administrative staff will schedule their in-person lessons going forward and send them a confirmation email.
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Other FAQs

At what point will parents be able to observe their student's lesson in-person?

- Two weeks after Austin enters [Stage 1](#), one parent or guardian will have the option to observe their student's lesson in-person, though Zoom observation will still be available. Parent observation of group classes will remain unavailable until further notice.

Since the waiting area will be closed, where will parents and students wait before and/or between lessons?

- A covered patio space is available at the NW Austin location. Additionally, parents may choose to wait in their car. As was true before the pandemic, we will not be able to provide childcare for children waiting between lessons. Our outdoor waiting area will not be monitored by a member of the Orpheus staff. For this reason we ask that a parent or guardian is present at all times while students are outdoors.

Will students be able to schedule some online lessons even if they are in-person the majority of the time?

- Absolutely! As usual, we only ask that students communicate any schedule changes with the front desk so that we may notify their teacher in advance of the lesson. Many parents and teachers stated that they've enjoyed the flexibility of online lessons! So, if a student is feeling under the weather, can't make their lesson due to commute time, or is traveling while on vacation, they can take their lesson online. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to schedule online make-up lessons!

Where can students submit feedback about this?

- We truly value the input of our students! If students have questions, or would like to share feedback, they may email us at admin@orpheusacademy.com to schedule a phone appointment with a member of our admin staff.