

Addendums – Safety Measures and Protocols for Specific RCM Program Areas

13.0 Glenn Gould School

Updated November 23: As per provincial regulations school activities will be conducted virtually with in-person instruction permitted for instruction that is required to be taught in person. The total number of students permitted in each instructional space at any one time is limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the premise, and in any event cannot exceed 10 persons.

The following contains important information about the re-opening of The Glenn Gould School for the upcoming 2020 Fall Term. In collaboration with the RCM's internal Re-opening Task Force, GGS administration gathered input from local, provincial and federal public health agencies, as well as other music conservatories across North America to determine the programming that will be made available, along with the appropriate health and safety measures.

Our priority is the health and safety of students, faculty, some of these details may change to reflect the evolving situation and as required to comply with public health authorities' guidelines.

The following are the fundamental principles based on the public health authorities' guidelines that was used to guide and support our planning for Fall 2020, these include:

- Screening,
- Physical distancing measures,
- Hand Hygiene and cough etiquette,
- Environment Cleaning and Disinfection,
- Use of masks.

All students registered for in-person instruction/activities will be required to adhere to protocols for these specific activities, as well as the general safety measures and protocols outlined in detail in the preceding sections (2.0 to 5.0) of this safety plan.

In addition to this, we have implemented changes to the GGS programs and activities scheduling which include:

- Modify delivery of programming – through a hybrid model
- Manage transition times and locations for in-person activities
- Focus on strategies to minimize the number of students in the building at one time

DETAILS FOR FALL 2020

The 2020 Fall Semester at GGS **begins on September 8 and ends on December 18** for a total of 12 weeks of instruction, plus two project weeks and a final exam week. Current plans include the resumption of full in-person programming as soon as conditions permit – ideally for the start of second term (beginning on Thursday, January 7, 2021).

Based on our experiences with online course delivery from this past spring, GGS has developed a **hybrid model** for Fall 2020 – involving both in-person and online instruction. This will allow students who consider themselves to be at risk, or who continue to experience travel restrictions into early fall, to continue their education from home.

Both new and returning students planning to attend by online instruction only should reach out to the Registrar (nicole.hulme@rcmusic.ca).

Orientation and Registration

Students will be **pre-registered** for required courses. Students will have Zoom appointments to work with the Registrar to complete their schedules. The registrar will notify students when their schedules are available.

As part of the registration process, students (age 18 and over) will be required to complete a waiver in order to attend classes/activities on the premises.

Student **orientation** will take place primarily online during the week of August 31st. This will include information about both academic and performance programming, as well as details relating to the RCM's COVID-19 Safety Plan. More details will be emailed by mid-August.

Information regarding any applicable **qualifying/placement exams** will be sent out in August.

Work-study opportunities are currently being developed – for both remote and in-person positions. These positions, which will support the delivery of both our online and in-person programming, will commence during September. Please contact the Student Services Manager to discuss the application process.

Arriving at the GGS

Students should plan to arrive in Toronto 14 days prior to starting in-person instruction if they have an obligation to self-quarantine.

14-day quarantine requirement is currently in place for anyone arriving to Canada as set out by provincial and federal health agencies. Click on this link for the most up to date information - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html#ua>.

All individuals are required to provide their own mask and it must be worn to enter the building and while on the RCM premises.

Students and faculty will only have access to the building for the purposes of pre-arranged school activities. Therefore, access to lockers is only available when on-site for these activities.

Academic Classes (music history, theory, humanities, etc.)

All academic courses will be delivered online using Zoom, in order to maximize the use of space for performance-based activities – including practice, lessons, and ensemble rehearsals.

Course materials, syllabi, etc., will be stored in Moodle – a widely used online learning platform designed to provide students and faculty an integrated learning environment.

Given the hybrid nature of course delivery, some students may need to move from an in-person activity to a location where they can attend an online class. In order to accommodate these situations, we are looking into appropriate locations in the building.

Students impacted by time-zone issues should contact the Registrar (nicole.hulme@rcmusic.ca) to discuss asynchronous access to class video content.

Private Lessons

Lessons will be delivered both in-person and by video-conference, based on the instrument and whether students and/or faculty are able to visit the building. Given the success of remote lessons during our spring term, this type of hybrid delivery model is also being considering for those who are located in Toronto for the Fall Term.

Face coverings must be worn at all times, except when playing a wind instrument or singing.

Piano, strings and percussion lessons will occur in-person, in rooms that accommodate adequate physical distancing.

For **wind instruments** and **voice**, in-person lessons will be held in spaces that accommodate adequate physical distancing between faculty and students for these activities. To facilitate these lessons, spaces will be equipped with impermeable barriers.

Collaborative pianists and vocal coaches will join in-person lessons in spaces (classrooms and performance spaces) where physical distancing can be maintained and will include the use of impermeable barriers for wind instruments and voice.

Five dedicated remote instruction studios will be equipped with high quality equipment, for use by students of our international visiting instructors and others whose instructor is not able to visit the building in-person.

Performing Ensembles and Performance-based Courses

Students situated in Toronto this fall will be assigned to ensembles and begin rehearsals during September. Students will be allowed to participate in approved, physically distanced ensembles, with required face coverings (*except by wind and voice students when performing*).

All students and instruments will be distanced at least 2-metres apart. Wind players will also have impermeable barriers placed to each side.

Brass/wind players will be required to use their own towels to ensure hygienic emptying of valves and collection of any associated condensation to be immediately placed in a sealed bag. Hands should be washed or sanitized after this.

Current provincial guidelines include limits on indoor gatherings including ensembles, so traditional ensembles are not possible until guidelines change. We will be working to identify ways to supplement smaller group activities with additional opportunities for students to gain skills and experience related to large ensemble work.

Ensembles rehearsing and performing in Koerner Hall, Mazzoleni Hall and Temerty Theatre will be provided specific instructions for entering and exiting these spaces to ensure one-way traffic flow when possible. Students in each ensemble will be assigned a specific location, and all chairs and stands will be marked in place and not moved from their locations except by a member of the RCM staff. Backstage areas will not be used as holding spaces for ensembles. Holding spaces will be assigned for performances.

For those students studying remotely, alternatives to in-person ensemble rehearsals and performances will be provided to maximize music-making opportunities and learning to work with new technology.

Performance-based classes will be limited to an instructor and a piano-instrumental duo.

For **studio** and **master classes**, only the active students and faculty will gather in-person, with others joining online via Zoom (*for Term 1*).

Wind and voice studio classes will take place in performance halls and utilize impermeable barriers.

Ensembles (including chamber music) will take place in spaces where appropriate physical distancing can be observed.

All students and faculty will be physically distanced (2 metres) apart from each other at all times.

Recitals and Concerts

Will take place, with or without an audience, with performers observing appropriate face covering, physical distancing and impermeable barrier requirements.

We are currently exploring options for our two fall RCO performances, using smaller groups and alternate repertoire. These options will be assessed, based on all available guidelines, as the year progresses.

An alternate format for the Fall Opera, utilizing pre-recorded material, is also being investigated

We will follow all provincial and federal guidelines regarding audience capacity for public performances. If an audience is not permitted, performances will be recorded and/or live streamed.

Practice Rooms

Practice rooms will be available for GGS students, with specific guidelines and rules in place for both scheduling and room usage. Reservations will be required for all practice room and classroom use for personal practice or group rehearsals.

Practice rooms will be available by advance reservation only, as access to the building will be limited and closely monitored

Certain spaces will be prioritized to certain majors, such as piano, percussion and harp students.

Smaller studio spaces will only be used for solo practice. Larger spaces will be required for any practice involving two or more individuals.

Similar to ensemble rehearsals, brass/wind players will be required to use their own towels to ensure hygienic collection of any condensation, to be immediately placed in a sealed bag. Hands should be washed or sanitized after this.

Technology and Digital Resources

Moodle, an integrated online learning environment, will provide the framework for all academic courses. **Zoom** will be the primary video conferencing application used for online courses and lessons.

Wired and wireless internet throughout the building will support hybrid and remote learning.

The Library is increasing its digital resources, including both audio and video recordings and print resources (including non-public-domain scores). Access to the physical collection will be by “curbside” pickup only – arranged directly through the online catalogue. Users will receive a confirmation email with details about the contactless pickup process when their reserved item is available.

GGs will provide students with recommendations for microphones, speakers, recording devices, and internet connections to optimize sound quality for online courses, lessons, and performances.

Testing / Insurance / Mental Health Supports

In Ontario, proof of insurance coverage is not required in order to access COVID-19 testing at dedicated assessment centres (several established across Toronto).

The GGS’s student insurance plans – through **Guard.Me** – provides coverage for all new and emergent conditions and medically necessary treatment, including COVID-19 (<https://www.guard.me/COVID-19.php>). That being said, coverage for COVID-19 does not include costs associated with self-isolation or a mandated quarantine. Private accommodation and day-to-day expenses (food and non-emergency transportation) are not eligible for reimbursement. Only new and emergent conditions and medically necessary treatments are eligible. This includes private-duty care by a qualified nurse if it is medically necessary and prescribed by a certified health professional.

Mental Health and Well Being – GGS students also have access to **Keep.meSAFE** - a mental health counselling service that specializes in 24/7/365 support through telephone or mobile chat. Additional mental health support (both in-person and online) is available to students, provided by a team of Toronto-based counsellors. More details about both services will be provided during student orientation.

REMINDERS

- Hands must be washed and sanitized before entering and after leaving a

- classroom/studio space.
- All Individuals will be required to wipe down shared equipment, instruments, music stands and other used surfaces before and after each user with available disinfectant wipes.