

Cleaning and disinfecting musical instruments



Ellicottville Music Department

For all instruments: Open the case and let it “air out” for 2-3 days, without touching anything inside. Make sure this is in a place safe from pets, water damage, etc.

Flutes:

Head joint: Swab the inside with cleaning rod and cloth swab, wipe down lip plate with alcohol swab.

Main body & foot joint: Swab the inside with cleaning rod and cloth swab.

Swab: Hand wash swab with warm, soapy water, rinse well; hang to dry.

Clarinet/Saxophone/Oboe:

Mouthpieces: Let top of mouthpiece (not cork part of clarinet mouthpiece) sit in a mixture of half vinegar, half lukewarm water. (The mouthpiece is made out of hard plastic or rubber, so only use lukewarm water; very hot water will discolor the mouthpiece.) Then clean with soap and water, and a small brush may be used to scrub the inside of the mouthpiece. (There is a special brush available for this if you’re interested in purchasing one) *Be careful not to get the cork of the clarinet mouthpiece wet.*

Reeds: Cane reeds should be replaced; plastic reeds can be washed with warm soapy water

Main body: Swab the inside with silk swab.

Swab: Hand wash swab with warm, soapy water, rinse well; hang to dry

Trumpets/French Horns/Trombones/Tuba:

Mouthpieces: Clean with soap and water. You can also use a small brush to clean the inside of the mouthpiece.

Towel/washcloth: Wash in the washing machine or by hand with warm, soapy water. Put in dryer hang to dry.

Percussion:

Sticks/Mallets: Wipe down with sanitizing wipe.

Cases:

Spray inside and outside of case with a disinfecting spray, then let air dry, ideally in the sun. Make sure that the case is completely dry before putting instrument back in.

**NO OTHER PART OF THE INSTRUMENTS SHOULD BE
CLEANED IN WATER!**

If you think there is more that needs to be done to sanitize the instrument, please contact us and we will discuss where to take it, estimated cost, etc.

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Also, this link will take you to a bunch of videos that have helpful advice. In this main video, there are links for several specific instruments. As always, ask if you have any questions or concerns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byBd5sXryy8&app=desktop>