

WCPSS Arts Education  
Infection Control and Cleaning Musical Instruments  
At a Glance Information

**Purpose**

To provide a consistent procedure for all schools to use for the sanitizing of musical instrument mouthpieces and recorders to ensure the highest standards for student health and safety.

**Background**

Angela Babin outlined best practice methods for music teachers that are designed to minimize the transmission of student illnesses:

- Whenever possible, each student should have their own instrument
- If this is not possible, then each student should have their own mouthpiece
- Reeds should not be shared at all
- Instruments should be properly disassembled and cleaned at the end of each term
- When instruments must be shared use alcohol wipes or other disinfectants between players
- Teach students how to properly care for and clean their own instruments and insist that they do so regularly (Babin, 1992)

Experts say the key is to clean the instruments on a regular basis, inside and out. The mouthpieces of musical instruments, especially those used by multiple students, should be cleaned and sanitized to prevent the spread of disease.

- ✓ Use a cleaning kit specifically for instruments
- ✓ After every use, students should use a soft cloth to wipe the surfaces that come in contact with the skin and mouth
- ✓ Sanitizing sprays should be used on the mouthpiece occasionally, especially after someone is sick

**Sanitizer:**

Oasis 146 Multi-Quat Sanitizer

Material Safety and Data Sheet (MSDS) attached

**Guidelines for sanitizing musical instruments**

- Clean brass instruments with a cleaning snake between student use
- Instruments should be air dried by placing on disposable paper towels
- All instruments should be dried prior to storage

Citations

Babin, A. (1992). *Shared Musical Instruments*. Retrieved April 13, 2011, from Art Hazards News, vol 15, No 5, 1992: [http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts1/HARTS\\_library/sharedinstr.txt](http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts1/HARTS_library/sharedinstr.txt)

Criswell, C. (n.d.). *A Refresher Course in Preventing the Spread of Disease in Instrumental Music Classes*. Retrieved April 13, 2011, from CMEA-CS.org: [http://www.cnea-cs.org/newsletter/preventing\\_disease.html](http://www.cnea-cs.org/newsletter/preventing_disease.html)

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