

Sing Now Choir COVID-19 Policy

Opening statement:

At Sing Now Choir, we love our community of singers and will always put their health & safety above anything else. Since March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we moved our rehearsals online. However, government guidelines now permit us to hold in-person rehearsals once again. To comply with the new rules and guidelines, we have made the following changes to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread and to allow us to return to physical rehearsals. Our measures cannot reduce risk to zero.

Our policy and risk assessments are based on the following 5 principles:

1. **No crowds:** Limiting the amount of people in a room at one time and preventing mingling/queuing.
2. **No closed spaces:** Aiming to achieve as much ventilation as possible through open windows & doors.
3. **No close contact:** 2 metre social distancing in place at all times and regular cleaning of touch point.
4. **Duration:** Reduced session time down to 45mins.
5. **Volume:** Singing or shouting at a loud level could generate 30 times more aerosol than speaking, so we will sing at 'speaking level' ([BBC news article](#)).

[Detailed policy breakdown](#)

COVID Symptoms or positive test:

Members must not attend Sing Now Choir in-person rehearsals if they have COVID-19 symptoms (*high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*). If they develop symptoms after attending a rehearsal or test positive for COVID-19, we ask that they notify NHS Test & Trace and Sing Now Choir immediately. By booking a session with Sing Now Choir, members agree to our NHS Test & Trace data sharing process:

- We will share a member's name and contact details with NHS Test & Trace if we are contacted by them in relation to a session that the member attended, this is for everybody's safety.
- Member's data will NOT be shared with any other organisation or with fellow choir members. If at any point we share their information with NHS Test & Trace, we will inform them via email.

If an individual is at higher risk from COVID-19:

Reference link: [Who's at higher risk from coronavirus \(NHS\)](#)

We ask that members check the definition of high/moderate risk/vulnerable persons at least once a month and regularly check if they are advised to shield by the government. We will identify our high/moderate risk/vulnerable members via an online questionnaire before the sessions. It is the members decision to attend and our measures cannot reduce risk to zero. In our pre-session form, we will ensure vulnerable members confirm that they have understood and agree to this.

Booking system:

To sign up for our physical sessions, we will be using a system called 'Bookwhen'. The system will take payment electronically, upfront. This system is part of our virus spread mitigation plan and helps prevent queuing/mingling by taking payments on the door.

Arrival time slot:

We will allocate each member an arrival time. This will be in a group of no more than 6 and again will prevent queuing, by staggering our arrival times. We ask that members stick to their arrival time and do not enter the venue until their allocated time slot.

Getting in:

Once you arrive, our choir leader will ask each member some basic screening questions in relation to COVID-19. Once members have sanitised their hands, they will then be directed to their allocated seat and 2 metre square for the 45min session. The seating plan can not be changed as it will be planned in advance incase we need to share this with NHS Test & Trace. If individuals have the NHS COVID-19 app (recommended), we will ask members to scan the Sing Now Choir QR code on their way into the room.

Face coverings:

Face coverings will be required throughout the building and may be removed when members are seated in their designated spot, whilst we are in local lockdown level 1. If the level/tier number increases in our local choir area, face masks will be required throughout the whole session, even whilst singing.

Socialising, refreshments & facilities:

In line with government guidance, socialising is not allowed. So there will not be any breaks during the sessions for socialising or refreshments. Members are not to shout across the room to a fellow singer or move from their allocated 2 metre square. We ask that members use the loo before they attend. If a member requires use of the toilet facilities, we will ask them to put their mask on and make their way directly to the toilets, only one person at a time. We encourage good hand washing technique and our venues will supply soap & paper towels. Members must bring their own bottle of water (the kitchen will be out of use) and food if they need it for medical reasons. We aim to prevent queues through our sessions, but should there be a hold up, members must remain at least 2 metres away from fellow members at all times.

Touching shared surfaces:

We will sanitise each hard surface chair before every session. Members should avoid touching shared surfaces as much as possible. We will supply hand sanitiser on arrival for members to use. Members must bring their own lyrics and not share with anybody else (this includes handing out extra copies to fellow members).

Volume:

Singing or shouting at a loud level could generate 30 times more aerosol than speaking, so we will sing at 'speaking level'. The music will be quiet throughout and we will regularly remind singers to keep the volume to talking level.

The cold:

It could get cold during our sessions. Although we can use the heating, we will have every window and door open to achieve as much ventilation as possible. We ask that members bring appropriate protective clothing for cold environments. We aim to get everybody into the venue as quickly as possible, but of course safety comes first. So, if there is a delay in a member gaining access to the building, especially during winter, it may be cold and wet outside. Umbrellas, scarfs, coats and gloves at the ready!

Flexibility with cancellations:

We are in precarious times and things may change very quickly. We may have to cancel in-person sessions at very short notice. If we do have to cancel in-person sessions, we will refund the attendees accordingly.

Conduct:

To keep us all safe and to keep our choir going, we must all follow the important safeguarding measures laid out. If members do not comply with the measures we have in place, they will be asked to leave in-person rehearsals. We will operate a two warnings system, so that it doesn't come as a surprise if we have to exclude members. We will enforce this exclusion/warning system rigorously and transparently. Members are encouraged to report any behaviour that doesn't fall in line with our COVID-19 policy. We are all in this together.

Travelling to choir:

The desirable hierarchy of transport to prevent virus spread through this pandemic is: walk > cycle > own car. Members must review the latest government guidance on car sharing and the use of public transport before making a journey to/from choir.

Reference links:

- **UK government COVID-19 homepage:** <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- **NHS COVID-19 homepage:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- **Sing Now Choir COVID-19 homepage:** <https://singnowchoir.com/coronavirus>