

# **Berkshire Children's Chorus**

## **Covid-19 Safety Plan for the 2021/22 Season**

**Purpose:** Berkshire Children's Chorus (BCC) knows that students benefit from in-person learning. This plan is meant to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission and infection so that children can participate in our Chorus in-person during the 2021-22 season, while also protecting the health of students, family members, and BCC staff members.

**Note:** The Board of Trustees of BCC will monitor updates from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as Massachusetts state guidance for K-12 education and Old Parish Church in Sheffield, which is our host for rehearsal space. We may update this plan according to new guidance from these authorities.

**Masking & Hand Hygiene** - BCC will provide specially designed "[singer's masks](#)" to each member of the Chorus.

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks during indoor rehearsals and performances, regardless of vaccination status.
- All students and staff will be required to wash their hands before rehearsal, and hand sanitizer will be available at rehearsal.
- The parent manager will wipe down frequently trafficked areas (door knobs and pew backs) before & after rehearsal.

**Ventilation & Social Distancing** - BCC benefits from a rehearsal space in the sanctuary at Old Parish Church in Sheffield that has very high ceilings, ceiling fans, and lots of room for social distancing.

- The doors to the Parish Hall will be left open during rehearsals to allow for airflow.
- Students will sit six feet from each other in the sanctuary during rehearsals, and will sit staggered so that no student is directly in front of another.
- When possible, BCC will meet outdoors in the yard adjacent to the Church.

**Vaccinations** - According to the Center for Disease Control, vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the Covid-19 pandemic.

- All adult staff members and administrators who will be regularly interacting with children and family members are required to supply proof of vaccination.
- All eligible students are required to be vaccinated to help mitigate the risk assumed by gathering to sing in-person. Exceptions may be made based on health or religious exemptions.
- BCC may ask parents or guardians about the vaccination status of all members of the singer's household in order to inform BCC's safety measures and practices.

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**Screening, Testing & Tracing** - BCC will employ pre-rehearsal screening to attempt to identify current symptomatic infections, and will rely on CDC recommendations for test & trace protocols in the event of a diagnosed case of Covid-19 among BCC students or staff.

- A parent or guardian will be required to respond to a short questionnaire about their child's health before each rehearsal, either by email or at the door before rehearsal.
- The parent manager will check each student's temperature when they arrive for rehearsal. If their temperature is above 100.4 °F<sup>1</sup>, their parent or guardian will be asked to take them home.
- Students are asked to stay home if they have any signs of an infectious illness.
- If a student or staff member (regardless of vaccination status) has had a known exposure<sup>2</sup> to someone with a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, they will notify the Artistic Director immediately and will not attend BCC activities until they have been tested 3-5 days after exposure and received a negative result. (CDC recommends a 5 day wait before testing for unvaccinated people and a 3-5 day wait for vaccinated people.<sup>3</sup>)
- If a student or staff member is diagnosed with Covid-19, they will notify the Artistic Director immediately. Additionally, they will not attend BCC activities until 10 days have elapsed since symptoms first appeared (or diagnosis was made). The singer or staff member may resume attending rehearsals after a 10-day period as long as they also have gone 24 hours without fever and other symptoms are improving.

**Online fall-back** - If there has been a known case of Covid-19 at a rehearsal or other meeting of the Chorus, rehearsal will be held online for one week during the 10-day quarantine period, unless the Artistic Director is unable to hold rehearsal due to personal illness. In the case that an individual student is required to stay home due to potential illness or potential Covid-19 exposure, that student will be able to follow along with a livestream of in-person rehearsal. The Chorus may hold rehearsals online for a longer period of time if Old Parish Church stops allowing in-person meetings in the space, or if local public schools move to a fully remote model once again, but the Chorus will endeavor to keep meeting in person as long as it can do so.

**Waiver** - The parents of BCC students will be required to sign a waiver certifying their willingness to abide by this Covid-19 Safety Plan and their understanding that singing during the Covid-19 pandemic does carry with it an inherent risk.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/air/reporting-deaths-illness/definitions-symptoms-reportable-illnesses.html>

<sup>2</sup> "Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation. Exception: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting."

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>