



## **COVID-19 Protocol and Rehearsal Outlines**

**2021-22 Season Handbook**

# Indianapolis Children's Choir

## Overview of COVID-19 Updates as of July 1, 2021

Singing is an activity that constantly produces aerosols, a key component to the spread of COVID-19. Throughout the 2020-21 season, there were many positive cases of COVID-19 within our ICC community. However, we had no instances of a positive case spreading from one ICC singer to another. The ICC is determined to continue to protect the safety of all singers, and we plan to follow the latest research with respect to singing and the spread of the virus.

**A consortium of choral music organizations from across the country continues to support the findings that social distancing and wearing a mask while singing significantly decreases the spread of the virus among unvaccinated singers. Therefore, while masks are now optional at all times for fully vaccinated singers, unvaccinated singers will continue to wear a mask while indoors in order to keep all singers safe and continue our efforts to protect every singer.**

As vaccines become more readily available to varying age groups, more of our singers will be able to participate unmasked. The ICC is adhering to the following information as shared by the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

*The National Association of Teachers of Singing Voice Science Advisory Committee, the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Performing Arts Medicine Association, the Pan American Vocology Association, Opera America, and National Collegiate Choral Organization strongly recommend that all singing teachers, choral conductors, collaborative pianists, and singers eligible to receive an FDA authorized vaccine follow CDC guidance and become fully vaccinated as soon as possible.*

*We collectively support public health education efforts at the local, state, and national level that offer accurate information about vaccine efficacy and safety and that encourage all persons to become vaccinated.*

*We recommend that unvaccinated teachers, conductors, collaborative pianists, and singers continue to follow COVID-19 prevention and mitigation practices that have been effective in reducing the spread of the disease in indoor public areas. These include but are not limited to the use of masks, physical distancing, increased ventilation, reduced contact time, regular cleaning of common surfaces, and vigorous hand washing. [View statement with citations and source notes.](#)*

*This statement and other COVID-related resources, including guidance, are available on our page [Resources for Choral Professionals During the Pandemic.](#)*

# 2021-22 Updated COVID-19 Protocol

This document is fluid, and therefore subject to change according to the most current research regarding COVID-19, changes in the virus, and the impact it has on singing.

The Indianapolis Children's Choir is concerned about the following for our students, families, and faculty:

## 1) Masks

### ***For vaccinated singers:***

Masks are no longer required indoors or outdoors.

### ***For unvaccinated singers:***

Singers will wear masks while indoors. Masks are required outdoors while singers are singing. Singers will take occasional mask breaks indoors at the discretion of the conductor. Masks are optional outdoors when singers are at a distance of three feet or more and not singing. Once a singer is two weeks past their second dose of a vaccine, they will no longer be required to wear masks.

**Please refer to the overview on the previous page for further information regarding masks and singing.**

## 1) Social distancing

### ***For vaccinated singers:***

Social distancing is no longer required during rehearsals.

### ***For unvaccinated singers:***

Social distancing of at least three feet between singers is required.

### ***For ensembles that contain a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated singers:***

We will implement social distancing guidelines of at least three feet between singers in order to limit aerosol exposure.

## 2) Ventilation/Aerosol breaks

We will continue to use air filters in all indoor rehearsals. Aerosol breaks will still be in effect after 45 minutes of continuous singing<sup>1</sup> if the majority of singers in any specific ensemble are not vaccinated.

## 3) Facility Cleaning and Sanitizing

All singers will continue to sanitize hands immediately prior to rehearsals. Hand sanitizer is available at all rehearsal locations. We will continue to sanitize the chairs prior to rehearsals.

*Resources for above information:*

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), <https://www.msdt.k12.in.us>, <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/about/covid19-information>

## Virtual Only Option

All singers have the option of a virtual-only choir experience. This decision should be expressed to your director in the case of deciding upon a virtual-only experience for your singer.

## ICC Singer/Family Protocol, as of 7/1/2021

### Before leaving home for rehearsal

Prior to attending each rehearsal, unvaccinated singers should answer the following questions in their home:

1. In the last 24 hours have you had a fever or chills and/or taken medication for a fever? (If you are unsure, please utilize a thermometer for an accurate reading. A temperature of 100.4 or higher constitutes a fever according to medical professionals.)
2. Do you have COVID-19 symptoms such as new, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, sore throat, diarrhea/vomiting, or loss of taste or smell?
3. In the past 14 days have you been in close contact (was within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes total in a 24-hour time period) with a person known/suspected to have COVID-19 and/or have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?

If any **unvaccinated singer** answers “YES” to any of these questions, the singer should remain home and contact a family physician.

If any **vaccinated singer** answers “YES” to questions 1 and 2, we ask that you not attend rehearsal and continue to monitor symptoms.

*\*Resources for above information:*

<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/about/covid19-information>, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### Immediately Prior to Rehearsal

- Arrive a few minutes before your scheduled class time (please be on time).
- Coordinators/ICC Staff will be stationed at entrances and exits to ensure proper safety protocol.
- Coordinators/ICC staff will sign in each singer and singers will use hand sanitizer immediately prior to entering the rehearsal room. Singers will not sign in themselves.
- Unvaccinated singers will be masked indoors and stand a minimum of 3 feet apart when standing in line prior to rehearsal.

## **Distribution of Music**

- Because surfaces are not a significant means of spreading the virus, we will distribute individual binders and music to each singer at the first rehearsal.

## **Procedure if a singer tests positive for COVID-19**

- Notify your ICC director immediately.
- The director/ICC office will then immediately notify all members of the child's specific choir of the exposure to infection.
- Any unvaccinated singers who rehearse within 3 feet of the infected singer will be asked to quarantine from rehearsals.
- **Vaccinated singers who have been in close contact with an infected singer are no longer required to quarantine** as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- If symptoms occur for any additional unvaccinated or vaccinated singers within the two week incubation period, notify your director of the symptoms. We then recommend the singer is tested for COVID-19. Please notify your director if the singer's test is positive, and continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Asymptomatic close contacts who are not vaccinated may return on day 11 without a required negative COVID-19 test.

## **Procedure if a member of a singer's household tests positive for COVID-19**

### ***If singer is vaccinated:***

The singer may return to rehearsal in person as long as they remain asymptomatic.

### ***If singer is not vaccinated:***

- Notify your ICC director immediately.
- Follow the same procedure as listed above.

## **Procedure if a member of an unvaccinated singer's school, church, or other outside activity tests positive for COVID-19**

- Assess the frequency of exposure your singer has had with the infected person.
- If the unvaccinated singer has come within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more within two weeks of the infected persons positive test, the ICC singer should contact the choir director and quarantine from rehearsals for 10 days.
- The ICC student can attend in-person rehearsals again if he/she has been symptom free for a two week period.
- Vaccinated singers are not required to quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms.

## **Additional Notes**

- Thank you to singers and families for following all protocols.
- Parents may drop off children at rehearsals in person, but they are encouraged to wait for singers outside of the rehearsal building whenever possible. (Younger singers will be escorted to the carpool line by adults at the conclusion of rehearsals.)
- Please be on time for the start and end of rehearsal to allow for an efficient use of class time.
- Hand sanitizer, masks, and wipes will be available as needed.

Resources for above information:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/about/covid19-information>

## Waiver for 2021-22 ICC Season

Before attending a rehearsal in the 2021-22 season, parents/guardians and any singers over the age of 18 must click on the following link to agree to the ICC COVID-19 Rehearsal Waiver.

### COVID-19 ICC Rehearsal Waiver (also available online)

#### ASSUMPTION OF RISK / WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT

*In consideration of being allowed to participate in rehearsals, performances, retreats, and other activities in conjunction with the Indianapolis Children's Choir, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:*

- 1. Travel to and from and participation in rehearsals, performances, and other related ICC events and activities pose a risk of possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including, but not limited to, MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19. While rules, precautions and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist; and,*
- 2. I agree, represent, and warrant that neither the undersigned, if not vaccinated, nor any registered participant child(ren), if not vaccinated, shall visit or participate in the activities of the Indianapolis Children's Choir or any of its affiliates within 10 days after (1) returning from outside the United States, (2) exposure to any person returning from outside the United States, or (3) exposure to any person who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19; OR, regardless of vaccination status, if he, she, or they (1) experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including without limitation, fever, cough or shortness of breath, or (2) has a suspected or diagnosed/confirmed case of COVID-19. The undersigned agrees to notify his/her/their director immediately if any of the foregoing access/use restrictions may apply; and,*
- 3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,*
- 4. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation as regards to protection against infectious diseases. If, however, I observe and any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,*
- 5. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Indianapolis Children's Choir, any of its affiliate choirs, its directors, staff, or parent coordinators, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.*

**I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IF FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.**

*This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian, with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of presence and participation and his/her/their personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations for protection against communicable diseases. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her/their release provided above for all the Releasees and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees for any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's presence or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent provided by law.*

*Name of Parent / Guardian*

*Signature of Parent / Guardian*

*Singers name*

## **ICC Rehearsal Protocols**

All ICC choirs, including those choirs part of CICC and AACC, will rehearse at full capacity for their assigned rehearsal times.

All choirs will continue to use air filters during rehearsals.

All choirs will continue to implement social distancing of at least three feet between singers.

Ensembles that are comprised of a combination of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated singers will utilize aerosol breaks after 45 minutes of continuous singing.

### **Butler Campus Choirs**

As an affiliate of Butler University, the ICC must also comply with university rules and regulations.

Butler University highly encourages all campus affiliates and guests to receive the vaccine. Unvaccinated guests and affiliates are expected to adhere to University policies and protocols while on campus, including the wearing of face masks and social distancing.

Link to Butler's FAQs regarding COVID:

<https://www.butler.edu/coronavirus-vaccine-faqs>