

## COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT FOR BRENT SINGERS

DATE AND TIME: Thursdays 7.30 – 8.20 and 8.40-9.30

PLACE: South Brent Village Hall

RISK AREAS	POSSIBLE MITIGATIONS AND ACTIONS
1a) Local restrictions apply with little notice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Check government guidance on local lockdowns</li><li>ii. Check Coronavirus cases data regularly</li><li>iii. If there are local restrictions or a local surge in cases, cancel rehearsals for that week,</li><li>iv. Remember to communicate with: members, MD, volunteers, venue</li><li>v. Whole committee decision</li></ul>
2a) High/moderate risk/vulnerable individuals attend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Individuals who are vulnerable because of age and/or pre-existing conditions are personally responsible for the decision they make regarding their return to rehearsals.</li><li>ii. The trustees have implemented government guidelines in order to minimise the spread of COVID-19. However there are no measures that can reduce the risk to zero and members will be required to sign a statement to the effect that they are returning at their own risk.</li></ul>
b) Infectious individual attends rehearsal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Exclude potentially infectious individuals from attending and entering rehearsal venue</li><li>ii. Ask members to carry out a basic health check before leaving home for rehearsals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. do they have any of the symptoms: elevated temperature, continuous cough, loss of smell and taste?</li><li>b. have they been in close contact with someone with symptoms?</li><li>c. have NHS Track &amp; Trace asked them to self-isolate?</li><li>d. have they returned from abroad and been asked to self-isolate?</li></ul></li></ul> <p>If the answer to one or more of these questions is 'yes', they must stay at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>iii. Check temperatures at the entrance.</li></ul>
c) Inability to track and trace when someone falls ill outside rehearsal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Keep a register, with the seating plan, of everyone who attends rehearsals</li><li>ii. Ensure if anyone falls ill between one rehearsal and the next that they know to contact group and who to contact</li><li>iii. If that happens, contact NHS Track &amp; Trace AND contact all attendees of last 2 rehearsals; ask to self-isolate for 14 days from date of attending rehearsal with patient</li></ul>
d) Inability to deal with person becoming unwell during rehearsal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Send person home immediately</li><li>ii. Ask person with COVID symptoms to take a test asap and communicate the result to named person</li><li>iii. Terminate rehearsal immediately and send everyone home, asking them to self-isolate until test result received</li><li>iv. Clean rehearsal space carefully</li></ul>

	v. tell venue
e) Complacency means mitigating measures not complied with.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Create posters and signs to display each week at the entrance, by bathrooms, other prominent locations as reminders</li> <li>ii. Remind attendees of important notices at the beginning of rehearsals.</li> <li>iii. Make it someone's responsibility to do reminders.</li> </ul>
f) Non-compliance with measures means risk to other attendees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Make it clear to members that if they do not comply with the measures group has in place, they will be excluded (e.g. arriving at the venue without a face covering).</li> <li>ii. Enforce exclusion rigorously.</li> </ul>
3a) Individuals spread or breathe in virus-laden particles	<p>Set out expected behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 2 metre social distancing AT ALL TIMES, this means while queueing in the street, before, during and after musical activity, during breaks</li> <li>ii. sneeze/cough into tissue/crook of arm (if not wearing a face-covering)</li> <li>iii. no hugging, hand-shaking, lingering to chat in rehearsal venue before/after; chat, if you wish, outside, at 2m distance...</li> <li>iv. the wearing of face coverings while singing is a matter of personal choice</li> </ul>
b) Individuals spread/pick up virus by touching shared surfaces	<p>Set out expected behaviours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. avoid touching shared surfaces as much as possible</li> <li>ii. identify one person at each rehearsal who opens/closes doors and windows</li> <li>iii. sanitise hands on arrival and departure</li> <li>iv. bring your own and do not share equipment (music stands, sheet music, etc.)</li> <li>v. use allocated seat and keep all our own equipment and personal belongings by and in that space</li> <li>vi. don't share food or water</li> </ul>
c) Volunteers pick up virus in the course of their duties.	<p>For volunteers helping with register/ cleaning etc.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. contain and designate their area of operating (e.g. cleaning only, entrance only)</li> <li>ii. register who does what job on what date</li> <li>iii. limit and note who they work with (where applicable)</li> <li>iv. provide relevant personal protection equipment - e.g. disposable gloves, cleaning materials, face coverings</li> </ul>
4a) The venue is not Covid-19 secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Find out if they are – have they published their risk assessment, is it Covid-19 compliant?</li> <li>ii. Check against COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities (link in notes)</li> </ul>
b) Space not large enough to be safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Find out first how many members currently willing/able to return in person</li> <li>ii. Reduce numbers rehearsing to ensure radius of 2m-3m around each singer and 3-5m distance to conductor</li> <li>iii. Reduce numbers rehearsing to ensure social distancing of 2m is possible at all times, not just during singing</li> <li>iv. Consider: entrance/exit.</li> </ul>

c)Build-up of aerosols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Find out if there is mechanical ventilation (air-conditioning) and what kind, to what standard</li> <li>ii. If no mechanical ventilation in place, look at doors and windows</li> <li>iii. Test (to some extent) effectiveness with CO2 monitor before and after ventilation</li> <li>iv. Do not use fans - they can blow particles over people</li> <li>v. Build ventilation into our schedule</li> <li>vi. Reduce length of rehearsal overall to maximum one hour</li> </ul>
d) Build-up of virus on shared surfaces.	<p>If using venue chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Make sure they are hard chairs (can be cleaned)</li> <li>ii. Clean after use: volunteers to clean chairs after both rehearsals and stack at end of evening</li> <li>iii. Keep a register of who does cleaning on what date; provide gloves and hand-sanitiser</li> </ul>
e)Covid transmission in the disabled toilet (the only ONE open)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Should only be used in an emergency</li> <li>ii. Clean after rehearsal 1 and 2 if used</li> </ul>
f)Queueing points and traffic flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. One way system throughout rehearsal venue, allowing for 2m social distancing</li> <li>ii. Consider using: posters/signs, volunteers/stewards</li> <li>iii. .Consider also: queue management if queueing in public area (street)/</li> <li>iv. Leaving after rehearsal 1 –Choir A leaves as quickly as possible and walk on the opposite side of the road from the Choir B queue</li> </ul>
g)Contaminated material not properly disposed of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. All rubbish to be taken home</li> </ul>
a)Venue cannot accommodate whole group at 2m distancing,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Find out how many members willing/able to attend now and reassess venue capacity on findings</li> <li>ii. reduce numbers rehearsing to ensure radius of 2m-3m around each singer/player and 3-5m distance to conductor</li> </ul>
b)singers/conductor cannot hear each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Consider amplification</li> </ul>
c) Virus spread on music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. MS to print booklets and consent forms; puts on seats before first rehearsal.</li> </ul>

d) Virus transmission through prolonged exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. reduce overall length of rehearsal –no more than 1 hour in total</li> </ul>
e) Increased aerosols through high volume sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. reduce volume of singing – fewer aerosols produced</li> <li>ii. reduced volume of singing also means less need for participants to breathe deeply- also reduces risk of ‘hoovering up’ a large amount of aerosols through in-breaths</li> <li>iii. singing some consonants can also increase aerosol production (– this is perhaps not the moment to insist on clear and strong articulation)</li> <li>iv. adapt what you do in rehearsals (e.g. focus on harmonies, rather than articulation; listening rather than fortissimo)</li> <li>v. adapt repertoire temporarily to work on quieter pieces with less ‘air-intensive’ techniques</li> <li>vi. humming for some of the rehearsal</li> </ul>
f) Aerosol transmission to/from conductor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 3m-5m between front row of singers/players and conductor</li> <li>ii. face coverings for conductor</li> <li>iii. pocket amp and head mic so does not have to shout to make themselves heard</li> </ul>