

Twin Rivers Chorale Society 2021/2022 Covid-19 Policy & Procedures

Overview

Twin Rivers Chorale Society (Twin Rivers Community Choir) is a diverse group of adults dedicated to choral excellence. Within our membership are those who may be more medically vulnerable to contagious illnesses such as the novel Covid-19 Coronavirus. The measures outlined in this policy are in place to protect every member and our broader choir community, preserve group singing, and create safe and meaningful musical connections.

1. Prevention Measures for Choristers

- 1.1. Do not attend in-person choir rehearsals or gatherings if you have any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite.
- 1.2. Self-isolate if you develop symptoms as per [BCCDC guidelines](#), you must not attend in-person choir gatherings for 10 days following the development of any symptoms or confirmation of exposure.
- 1.3. Wash hands or use an alcohol-based cleanser upon arrival to rehearsal.
- 1.4. Practice appropriate hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Avoid touching mouth, eyes, and nose. Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- 1.5. Maintain minimum two metre physical distancing before, during, and after rehearsal.
- 1.6. Do not share water bottles, food, pencils, etc. with other members.
- 1.7. Alert Twin Rivers Community Choir COVID Co-Ordinator Jo-Anne Stoltz or Peter Oostlander if you are sick, have been tested for COVID-19, or have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. Contact info is below.
- 1.8. Proof of full, effective vaccination must be presented at the first rehearsal attended in person, as required by BC Health and as per our rental agreement with New Life Church.

2. Administrative Prevention Measures

- 2.1. The Twin Rivers Choir Covid-19 Policy must be reviewed and signed by all members, whether they wish to attend in-person rehearsals or participate virtually. Signed copies will be kept on file. Vaccine information will be verified by a board member at first rehearsal attended. No health information will be retained on file by the choir outside of a checklist demonstrating visual confirmation as due diligence.
- 2.2. Choristers will have distanced seating in the church rehearsal space. Upon entry, they are to collect their seat tag and walk directly to their seat. The choir will provide members with cleaning wipes (i.e., Lysol) to wipe high-touch areas in their seating area (i.e., pew, handrail, etc.). At the end of rehearsal choristers will leave their seat tag behind and leave their space through a designated exit.
- 2.3. **Choristers to remain a minimum 2 metres apart from each other at all entry/exit locations. Physical contact is discouraged (hugs/handshakes).**
- 2.4. Entry and exit from the sanctuary space to be done in a staggered fashion.
- 2.5. The choir will provide alcohol hand cleanser for chorister use upon arrival to in-person rehearsal.
- 2.6. Additional high-touch areas will be cleaned using a cleaning wipe (i.e., Lysol) prior to use.
- 2.7. Use of the bathroom is discouraged. Cleaning wipes (i.e., Lysol) will be provided in case of necessary bathroom use. The chorister will be expected to wipe all touch surfaces before and after use.
- 2.8. Use of any kitchen facilities and water fountains will not be permitted.
- 2.9. Warm-ups and rehearsal exercises that might involve touching of others or touching faces will be discontinued.
- 2.10. Sheet music, singers mask and pencil will be provided to in person participants in a sealed Ziplock bag.

3. 2022 Spring Season Plans

- 3.1.** In-person rehearsals will start at the discretion of the Board of Directors when cleared to do so by BC Health and New Life Church.
- 3.2.** Warm up to be offered indoors or outdoors (weather dependent) for up to 30 minutes followed by indoor or outdoor rehearsal. Indoor rehearsals will be limited to a maximum of 1 hour. All participants must be FULLY MASKED when singing indoors. **Singers' masks will be provided by the choir** - only designated masks are to be used.
- 3.3.** Where practicable, in-person rehearsals will be available live using Zoom to accommodate participants who choose to attend virtually. Virtual attendees can use the Zoom chat feature to ask questions and can turn off their own video image if they wish. Rehearsal recordings will be uploaded into a shared Dropbox folder for viewing later. Virtual participants will be able to submit individual recordings for inclusion in any virtual concert productions undertaken by the choir.
- 3.4.** At this time the choir is reviewing concert possibilities for this season. Virtual or alternate formatted performance options are may also be considered. Any changes will be promptly communicated to all members.

4. Attendance Expectations

- 4.1.** Choristers who have developed symptoms related to Covid-19 must not attend in-person rehearsals for 10 days. They are most welcome to attend Zoom rehearsals during this time.
- 4.2.** Choristers must not feel pressured to attend in-person rehearsals if unable for any reason. Virtual options are available.

5. Decision Making and Moving Target

- 5.1.** The Twin Rivers Chorale Society Board of Directors is committed to staying informed on current public health requirements and choral industry standards as they apply to the pandemic. We will review policies and practices regularly as they pertain to the state of the pandemic in our community. As a result, this document is subject to change. Any changes will be promptly communicated to all members.
- 5.2.** The Twin Rivers Community Choir will comply with all required Health Mandates and Vaccine Passport requirements. We hope these will be short term steps to enabling a safe culture for us all to continue to meet.
- 5.3.** The health and well-being of our members is our top priority in all decisions made.
- 5.4.** We recognize that action may need to be taken beyond precautions exercised taken by the public and will continue to work with all resources to ensure a continued safe transition back into group singing activities.

Member Agreement

I, _____, have read and understand the Twin Rivers Chorale Society 2021/2022 Covid-19 Policy & Procedures. I understand the risk of Covid-19 transmission associated with my participation in Twin Rivers Chorale Society (Twin Rivers Community Choir) activities including in-person rehearsals and events. I agree to uphold all member expectations and prevention measures as outlined in this document.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Resources:

Interior Health specific health measures: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/disease-outbreaks/covid-19/provincial-restrictions>

Individual and community-based measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Canada:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>

A guide to 2020-2021 choral season planning:
<https://pages.chorusconnection.com/hubfs/PDFs/A%20Guide%20to%202020-2021%20Season%20Planning.pdf>

COVID-19 Action Plan Template for Canadian Community Choirs:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rv4M3XSKY79MIruR5xUDCA5FN9a9VFXLywBwtraY9xo/edit#>

Twin Rivers Chorale Society COVID-19 Coordinators:

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