

Find out the latest government guidance and what you can and can't do:
<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/resource/can-group-get-back-in-person>

Our campaign for choirs: <https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/news/england-step-3-guidance-choirs>

Report infections from people who attend your rehearsals on our new app:
<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/resource/wellrehearsed-app-covid-19>

Find out about joining Making Music at
<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/membership-and-insurance>

Participants at the event were able to ask the speakers questions via the chat function, but it wasn't possible for all of the questions to be answered during the session. We've gathered the unanswered questions together here and given answers from the speakers below. Please note that some responses relate to government guidance which is constantly changing: the advice given was correct on 18 June 2021. Please use [our guidance tool](#) to keep up-to-date with current guidance and restrictions.

To rehearsing in groups over six if preparing for a concert. We are a choir of 165. I presume it will be determined only by the venue?

- *yes determined by size of venue and need to maintain 2 metres of social distancing*

We are about to recommence rehearsals by adopting the MM 'Sub Group of 1 with no mixing' + Precautions (Risk A, Masks, Distancing, Track & Trace etc). We do not have a Concert lined up. Is it still Legal?

- *This depends on what type of group you are. For an instrumental group this is fine. For a choir, you need to be rehearsing for a 'commercial activity' – that is a performance where you will either be paid a fee or make money from ticket sales – for this to be within the guidance.*

So if vaccines are effective and the entire chorus has been double vaccinated for at least 4 weeks, can I not use that as a risk mitigation to allow the group to sing indoors without social distancing and face masks?

- *you should continue to put in place as many mitigations as possible including social/physical distancing and face coverings. The vaccine does not guarantee you will not catch the virus, it just lowers the chances, adding in distancing and face coverings lowers the chances still further.*

If preparing for concert with tickets sold, is there any limit of numbers in the choir?

- *For the performance, the total number of people in the room (including the performers, the audience and any staff/volunteers) is limited to 1000 people or 50% of the room's capacity, whichever is the lower.*

Comment from participant: As I understand it, there are three sorts of droplet. Big, small and medium. The big ones (which would fall onto surfaces) are well controlled by masks. Smaller ones may escape, particularly if masks don't fit snugly. The smallest ones disperse easily. It's the medium ones that hang about and pose the greatest risk. Risk from these is mitigated by good ventilation (fan assisted if necessary) and limiting the length of rehearsals so that the the whole room can be thoroughly vented for a period of time (15 minutes seems to be common).

I'm NOT an expert but have been trying to keep up with the research.

Can we legally require lateral flow tests by members based on trust that they will report accurately?

- *You shouldn't make it a requirement but you can recommend that people do this.*

Are the social distancing rules for rehearsals the same for a live performance for choir members?

- *Yes they are.*

Comment from participant: Bell covers are a useful way of reassuring an audience that we are taking their safety seriously

Comment from participant: 20+ Common symptoms of Covid identified by the ZOE symptom survey over the last year. The government has doggedly stuck to three "official" ones, (the third of which, - loss of smell - was a ZOE finding) ZOE scientists now HAVE identified sneezing and sore throat as being common symptoms of people with the delta variant. The sensible rule perhaps is that no one who feels unwell or has ANY respiratory symptoms should attend rehearsals.

Is it compulsory to have a track and trace QR code for indoor venues?

- *Yes, and it is the venue's responsibility to ensure this is done.*

Comment from participant: regarding Jan better than Sept, Whitty is already stating there may be a winter surge

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2021/jun/17/uk-covid-live-news-coronavirus-delta-variant-hancock-johnson>

Can I just check we could we have a flexible approach to audience numbers (no max) as long as families sit together

- *if indoors you are limited in capacity - 1000 people in total (including performers, staff, audience) or 50% of venue capacity, whichever is the lower*

What is considered as a safe CO2 reading?

- *this information is provided with the instructions that come with the monitor*

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928720/S0789_EMG_Role_of_Ventilation_in_Controlling_SARS-CoV-2_Transmission.pdf

Comment from participant: Long Covid: Funding for A long term study into this has just been announced. Sadly no real progress thus far regarding effective therapy. Many people report improvement with time but also many remain significantly disabled.

Research on 24 'super-spreading' choral events:
<https://www.choralcanada.org/blog.html>

where can one find these special singing masks and inserts please?

- *check this link <https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/resource/face-coverings-and-singing>*

Or if you can getting donations by audience members?

- *donations are not commercial activity*

Surely the virus doesn't know that £ has changed hands so good practice is the same for amateurs or pros?

- *We agree, and we have been making this point to DCMS in our campaign to get them to change the guidance.*