



## Sing Safely Guidelines for 2021-2022

### **Gratitude:**

The health, safety, and well-being of The St. Louis Children's Choirs (SLCC) students, families, staff, and community are our priority. We are grateful to report that last season, the Choirs conducted over 30 weeks of rehearsals and produced four virtual concerts without any COVID transmission traceable to our choral activities.

This year's updated plans will continue to ensure safe and enjoyable rehearsals for our singers. These rehearsal plans follow recommended and best-practice protocols from multiple sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), St. Louis County guidelines, and the National Association for Music Education. In addition, SLCC has collaborated and consulted with the Indianapolis Children's Choirs, Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, and Chorus America.

Updated guidance on spacing of students has allowed us to make modest adjustments. We will modify plans if needed in awareness of local, state, and national public health policies.

### **Rehearsal Spaces:**

- The recommended spacing for school-aged students K-12 (wearing masks) has been updated to 3 feet by the CDC and the National Association for Music Education. This guideline is being followed for music classes in local St. Louis County school districts. After careful consideration SLCC will begin rehearsals with larger spacing of 5 x 5 feet between singers and will re-evaluate as appropriate. Spacing for concerts will be determined closer to concert dates.
- Class sizes are determined by the size of the rehearsal space with generous spacing.
- PUCC Sanctuary will accommodate up to 65 singers. (Capacity 314)
- PUCC Fellowship Hall will accommodate up to 65 singers. (Capacity 305)
- Choir Office will accommodate up to 20 singers. (Capacity 110)
- Powerful HEPA air filters will create a continuous air exchange.
- Sanitization of air & surfaces will take place between rehearsals.
- Enrollment is limited to the number of students who can be accommodated safely in each rehearsal space.

### **Online Option:**

- Students are expected to attend in-person as music-making is a community endeavor.
- To accommodate special cases of illness, travel, or other circumstances, rehearsals will be live streamed via Zoom. Please contact the Choir Office when your student will attend via Zoom in one of these special cases so that your student's director can be notified in advance.
- If your student wishes to participate for the entire semester exclusively by Zoom please contact the Choir Office.
- Students who attend online for more than 3 rehearsals in any 8-week period before a concert, must set up an evaluation with their director to confirm performance readiness.

**Before we sing:**

1. Only singers may enter the buildings; Lobbies are closed until safe to open.
2. Singers should arrive 5-10 minutes early but no more than 15 minutes for check in. Please have a healthy snack before rehearsal; food is not allowed in rehearsal spaces.
3. Parents and singers should self-evaluate their temperature and general health before leaving home. Please do not attend if you don't feel well.
4. Singers should maintain a distance of 3 feet from others at all times and 5 feet when singing.
5. Singers must wear their own clean, well-fitted mask, regardless of vaccination status, until masks are no longer required. Disposable masks are recommended and should be thrown away after singing as they become wet. Cloth masks should be washed.
6. Singers must hand sanitize when entering rehearsals. Sanitizer will be provided.
7. These guidelines will be evaluated and updated on a regular basis.

**As we sing:**

1. SLCC will begin rehearsals with 5 foot spacing between students when singing and re-evaluate as appropriate. Students are asked to maintain 3 feet of distance during brief rehearsal breaks.
2. Until further notice, singers must wear a well-fitted mask when singing.
3. Students should use restrooms at home before rehearsal and to bring their own water bottle.
4. Powerful HEPA air purifiers will provide optimal air exchange during all rehearsals.
5. There will be a brief break for fresh air halfway through each rehearsal. (Does not apply to Music Makers who have a shorter rehearsal time.)

**After we sing:**

1. Singers should maintain 3 feet of distance from other singers during choir activities including exiting and while in parking lots.
2. Singers will wear a well-fitting mask while exiting the building.
3. Singers are encouraged to hand sanitize when leaving rehearsal.
4. Younger singers will be released directly to their parents waiting outside.
5. Singers may not wait in the rehearsal room before or after a class.

**General Policies and Information:**

1. Singers and parents agree to uphold these safety guidelines.
2. Parents/guardians have acknowledged the risk associated with this group activity when they enrolled their student.
3. Safety comes first. Attendance requirements will be adjusted to take into consideration missed rehearsals for health/safety concerns.
4. If a singer or family member has been exposed to or is being tested for COVID, the singer must stay home for 10 days and should attend rehearsals via ZOOM.
5. If a singer tests positive or is likely positive for COVID, the singer may return to choir 10 days after symptom onset as long as they are fever free for more than 24 hours and healthy.
6. If regular on-site rehearsals are suspended for any reason, directors will continue instruction online or in rotating small groups as allowed by health guidelines.
7. Tuition will not be refunded in the event of online only instruction. On site rehearsals will resume as soon as permitted.

**Singer/Family Responsibilities:**

Health/wellness check: All persons attending rehearsals must be healthy for 10 days prior to the first rehearsal. Weekly self-examination as to fitness prior to attending rehearsal is required. Parents and singers are responsible for monitoring the students' health and wellness and must be able to answer "no" to the following for singers to attend rehearsals:

1. Do I have an above normal temperature?
2. Do I feel any flu-like symptoms?
3. Have I lost my sense of taste and/or smell?
4. Am I or a family member currently awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test?
5. Have I had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with or who likely has symptoms associated with COVID?

**Before Leaving Home for Rehearsal**

1. Make certain your singer has no COVID related symptoms.
2. Have your singer use the bathroom at home and wash hands thoroughly.
3. Be sure your singer has eaten a healthy snack.
4. Have your singer bring their own water in a well-marked container.
5. Have your singer bring only the essential items (music, pencils, and water bottle). Note 4 & 5 does not apply to Music Makers.
6. Make sure your singer's disposable masks are thrown out or cloth masks regularly washed and replaced as needed.

**Immediately notify the Choir Office (not director as they will be notified by the office) if:**

- Your singer has tested positive for COVID.
- A member of your singer's household tests positive for COVID.
- A member of the singer's school classroom or other immediate group activity tests positive for COVID.

Note: Please see the "General Policies and Information" section for guidelines on returning to in-person choir activities. SLCC is committed to timely, transparent communication. We will share information promptly if any situation arises that needs your attention. Otherwise, individual communication will occur as necessary with families impacted by a positive case.

Thank you for your partnership in providing a safe environment for our students, staff, and community. SLCC will continue to monitor national and local health guidelines and will revise these guidelines accordingly. We encourage everyone to commit to actions both at SLCC, at school, and at home that support our students' continued in-person joy of singing.

**Thank you for singing in The St. Louis Children's Choirs!**