

COVID STRATEGIES FOR FWISD CHOIR PROGRAMS FALL 2020

Daily Director/Chorister Safety Precautions

- Each chorister must wear a face mask and face shield
- Parent/Chorister Agreement signed Contract requiring personal PPE. If student does not have PPE they may not enter choir room.
- Each chorister must have their own supplies (binder, octavos, sight reading materials, pencils, water, hand sanitizer [at least 60% alcohol])
- Each chorister will have an assigned music stand measured the required distance apart (CDC guidelines)
- The last 5 minutes of each class will be spent in student sanitization of their music stand, stowing their binder and personal items. They **MUST CONTINUE TO WEAR THEIR FACE SHIELD AND FACE MASK DURING DISMISSAL AND WHILE EXITING** the rehearsal space
- A plan for staggered entry/exit of the rehearsal place will be implemented each day.
- Students arriving for class will have face mask/shield on **BEFORE ENTERING**.
- They will wait to enter until all students have exited from the prior class period
- Proper ventilation is present at all times
- **STILL A BIG QUESTION:** How to schedule daily classes with safe student ratios in each period. Thoughts:
 - ✓ Dr. James Meadows suggests 60 minutes between each rehearsal to ensure dissipation of aerosol atmospheres-so do choir directors "book" two separate spaces? Meaning: Period 1 in Choir Room, Period 2 in another space allowing choir room to clear?
 - ✓ Have one section at a time (What do other choristers do during that class period)
 - ✓ At the end of the week schedule the auditorium for a tutti rehearsal for all sections
 - ✓ Re-think ensembles for Fall for smaller, more "Chamber Choir" ensembles rather than monster choirs of 60-75?
 - ✓ Where do students go when not singing during their class period?

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- REALLY OUT OF THE BOX IDEA: Plexiglass barriers could even be suspended from the ceiling in front of each music stand

General Director/Chorister Safety Precautions

- No choral riser formations allowed. (This produces an aerosol atmosphere from singers on the back riser)
- No Fall concerts/performances unless
 - ✓ All CDC guidelines are met involving social distancing for audiences and choristers
 - ✓ Proper ventilation
 - ✓ Limited performance time (studies have shown that aerosol atmospheres build with extended activity)

Suggestions for Fall Performances/Activities/Events

- Fall "Informances" for smaller groups and their parents
- Outdoor events with hybrid performance opportunities
- Smaller, controlled social gatherings for student engagement
- Small meetings for parent information rather than one large meeting

General Thoughts Regarding Choirs vs other Activities

- Is singing any more dangerous than passing periods, lunch in the cafeteria, cheer practice, strength and conditioning as long as masks, social distancing, ventilation, and sanitization are implemented
- Most reports currently circulating about choirs and COVID have been with groups that had taken no precautions

Resonance Singer's Mask \$32.95

<https://www.mymusicfolders.com/product/resonance-singers-mask-with-disposable-biofilters/>

Joan Fearnley DIY Mask for Singers, Version 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azElkHsa7uE>

Singer's Mask_Version 2_Pattern. pdf

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iiZBjsSzEozlIIbhjTbzOwER1_WgZcs5/view

9 Face Shields to Help Protect Yourself

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/09/cnn-underscored/best-face-shields-outbrain/index.html>

Rapid Response PPE Humanity Shield

<https://www.rapidresponseppe.com/>

1-9 Shields \$59.60/ea

10-49 Shields \$49.60/ea

50-999 Shields \$39.60/ea

Dr. Lee A. Reussner, Director of Kansas Voice Center:

Part 1: Singing Safely in COVID Era

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY_HueZbRNq

Part 2: Singing and Speaking Safely in the Covid Era: Singing, Spit, and Spread

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM1msYMn5vA>

Part 3: Considerations for Singing Together Again

<https://youtu.be/mMJXpRUkg0o>

Part 4: Singing Safely in the COVID era: Singing with a Mask and SURVEY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcJ_A8UAFww

Gondwana Choral Discussion: COVID 19 & the Future of Choral Singing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZss6EbVzTo>

Massachusetts Eye and Ear: Is Singing in a Choir Safe During COVID-19? A Discussion with Dr. Phillip C. Song, MD

<https://focus.masseyeandear.org/is-singing-in-a-choir-safe-during-covid-19-a-voice-expert-explains-the-risk/>

Lessons from the Choir: The Science Behind Cloth Face Masks

<https://medium.com/calvin-on-the-pandemic/lessons-from-the-choir-the-science-behind-cloth-face-masks-76248d18bf0e>

ABC Health & Wellbeing: When and how can choirs sing again without becoming “super spreaders”?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2020-06-14/how-can-we-resume-choir-practice-without-spreading-coronavirus/12344812>

What We Know About Face Shields and Coronavirus

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/what-we-know-about-face-shields-and-coronavirus-11592321931>

AARP: Some Experts Say Face Shields Better Than Masks for Coronavirus Protection

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/what-we-know-about-face-shields-and-coronavirus-11592321931>

You can Speak (and Sing) COVID-19

<https://www.jwatch.org/na51616/2020/06/01/you-can-speak-and-sing-covid-19>

Comment Box: Although these studies had vastly different approaches, they both bear out the concept that SARS-CoV-2 is readily transmissible through speech and such praiseworthy practices as choral singing. These findings, in turn, make the practice of social distancing and mask wearing essential, especially as we “open up society”.

Journal of Voice: Safer Singing During the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic: What we Know and What We Don't Know

[https://www.jvoice.org/article/S0892-1997\(20\)30245-9/fulltext](https://www.jvoice.org/article/S0892-1997(20)30245-9/fulltext)

NFHS Round 1 Preliminary Results: Clarinet, Flute, Horn, Soprano Singer, Trumpet

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.nfhs.org%2fmedia%2f4029952%2fpreliminary-testing-report-7-13-20.pdf&c=E,1,sPXo7T4A4aTJcCvSvNkaDDQvcP6yqMtBIMIOSkGEE2Uje6VWCLmHMhtxQXPb18CXecGh-FnEpDI4-3uzkz1vwfEdWlxmSzaDPodxnR3e&typo=1>