



COVID-19 Safety Plan: The Guelph Youth Singers (GYS)

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Developed by:

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This plan is based on information gathered from the [Ontario COVID-19 website](#) as well as the [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit](#). These sites will be reviewed often to ensure information and procedures are up to date.

Ensuring staff, volunteers, choristers, families, and members of the public know how, and are able, to keep themselves safe from exposure to COVID-19.

Actions:

1. Work-from-home/virtual meetings: Where possible, staff are encouraged to work from home. The GYS board will continue to meet virtually until further notice.
2. Encouraging vaccinations: Based on guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH), GYS **strongly encourages** all eligible staff, choristers, families, and volunteers who are eligible for the vaccine to get vaccinated.
3. Encouraging disclosure of vaccination status: GYS **strongly encourages** all staff, choristers, families, and volunteers to report their status for transparency and the safety of vulnerable populations. We will be asking parents to declare the vaccination status as an optional component of our registration process.
4. Review Procedures: Regularly confirming our procedures are up to date by a review of Ontario and WDGPH guidance.
5. Information Sharing: Sharing information about safety protocols, known cases, access to vaccinations, local virus hot spots, and other information with our community in a timely manner (i.e., in weekly memos to families, through social media, and on our website).

Actions specific to GYS rehearsals

Choirs I & II

1. Until the threat of COVID-19 transmission is significantly reduced (i.e. through vaccination and significant reduction in COVID-19 cases), weekly rehearsals and events involving children aged 11 and under will take place virtually.

Choir III, SATB, & MTA

1. GYMC has mandated that anyone age 12 and over must prove they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they may enter the building. This mandate comes into effect on October 1, 2021. As a result, all choristers participating in Choir III, SATB, and MTA must be fully vaccinated before joining in-person rehearsals.
2. All choristers will sign in to rehearsals (providing full names and contact information).
3. Choristers will be placed into rehearsal 'pods' with up to 10 choristers per group.
4. Mask wearing is mandatory, GYS will provide "singing" masks.
5. Choristers will be physically distanced (no less than 2 metres apart).
6. Rehearsals will last for one hour and the room will be cleared to allow for air exchange in between rehearsals).
7. Rehearsal rooms will be provided with air exchangers.
8. Choristers, staff, and volunteers will be encouraged to sanitize hands frequently and avoid sharing music or other materials. Hand sanitizer will be provided by GYS and easily accessible.
9. GYS will ask for 1 parent volunteer per pod to work with staff to supervise choristers entering/leaving rehearsal space and to ensure social distancing is maintained.
10. Singing (at low volume level) can take place inside and outside with masks.

Regular COVID-19 Screening

Actions:

1. Before in-person gatherings at GYMC, all staff, volunteers, and choristers are required to complete the online GYMC COVID-19 Liability Release each day they visit.
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/GYMC1/GYMCCOVID19LiabilityRelease>
2. Before in-person gatherings (e.g., rehearsals), all staff, volunteers, and choristers are required to take the COVID-19 self-screening test (see Appendix A). We will seek continued guidance from WDGPH regarding COVID-19 symptoms and adapt the self-screening checklist as needed.
3. Choristers are required to inform the Conductor about any symptoms by email, and then to isolate, and obtain a COVID-19 test if deemed applicable.

Controlling risk of transmission

Actions:

1. When in-person for a GYS event, meeting or rehearsal, all members of the GYS community will strive to maintain a distance of no less than 2 metres whenever possible. Choristers will be physically distanced (+2 m) when singing together.
2. When in-person for a GYS event, meeting or rehearsal, GYS community members are required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times.
3. In-person gatherings (including rehearsals, in the GYS office, kitchen, or other confined spaces) will last no longer than 1 hour, after which the room will be cleared of people for no less than 30 minutes before it can be used again.
4. Thorough sanitation (using products from the Health Canada approved disinfectant list) of all frequently touched surfaces will be undertaken by GYS staff before and after all in-person gatherings.
5. Staff, choristers, and volunteers will be required to use proper hand sanitization techniques before, during, and after in-person gatherings. GYS will provide sanitization stations.

Addressing potential case or suspected exposure to COVID-19

Actions:

1. All members of the GYS community will be required to sign into all in-person gatherings and events. This includes providing their full names and phone numbers to allow public health contact tracing.
2. In the event of a potential case or suspected exposure, a member of the GYS executive committee will contact WDGPH.
3. Any member of the GYS community who suspects they have COVID-19 or that they have been exposed to the virus, will be required to stay home and isolate until given permission by WDGPH to end their period of isolation.
4. Any chorister, volunteer, or staff member who shows symptoms of COVID-19 during an in-person event, will be moved away from others, and will be supervised until they can leave. Parents/guardians will be called immediately and will be required to pick up their chorister within 30 minutes.
5. Parents/guardians will be required to have their child tested for COVID-19 at a testing centre and show proof of a negative test result before the child can return to in-person activities. Staff or volunteers who showed symptoms of COVID-19 will also be required to show proof of a negative test before returning to in-person activities.

6. All staff, volunteers, and choristers who were in close contact with the person in question will be required to contact WDGPH for advice.
7. If a staff member, volunteer, or chorister tests positive for COVID-19, GYS will work with WDGPH to determine whether staff, volunteers, or choristers need to be tested or return home to self-isolate for 14 days.

Managing ongoing risk and updating this plan

Actions:

1. Members of the Safe Return Committee will conduct regular check-ins with staff, choristers, and volunteers to assess whether new risk and protocol controls are required.
2. Staff travel outside of the province or to known hot spots must be reported to the Executive Committee upon return.
3. The procedures and protocols set out in the plan will be reviewed by the Safe Return Committee on the first day of each month until further notice.
4. Any changes to this plan will be communicated immediately with all members of the GYS community using email and social media.

Appendix A: COVID-19 Self-Screening Test

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, or have any of the symptoms listed below, please stay home, isolate, and contact your health care provider.

- 1.** Do you have a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- 2.** Have you had close contact with anyone with acute respiratory illness or a confirmed or probable/suspected case of COVID-19?
- 3.** Have you travelled outside of Ontario in the past 14 days?

SYMPTOMS:

- Fever (GYS staff will check everyone's temperatures upon arrival)
- New onset of cough
- Worsening chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss or decrease in sense of taste or smell
- Runny nose/nasal congestion without other known cause
- Hoarse voice (new onset)
- Chills
- Headache
- Unexplained fatigue/malaise/muscle aches (myalgias)
- Difficulty swallowing
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)