



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

Date completed: July 27, 2021

Developed by:

Lisa Blenkinsop (Chair, GYS Safe Return Committee)

Heather Mair (GYS Board President)

Others consulted: GYS Safe Return Committee, GYS Staff, GYS Board

Revision date: March 4, 2022

Date distributed:

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. Mandatory disclosure of vaccination status and proof of vaccination: [The Guelph Youth Music Centre \(GYMC\) has](#) implemented a mandatory vaccine policy [that](#) states that [all eligible individuals \(born in 2009 or earlier\) entering the Centre](#) must be [fully vaccinated by October 1st, 2021](#). Therefore, [disclosure of vaccine status is mandatory and proof of vaccination](#) (see below) [will be required for all eligible choristers, staff, family members and volunteers using the GYMC facilities and participating in GYS rehearsals and activities](#). All staff, choristers, volunteers and visitors using the GYMC facilities must complete the [Guelph Youth Singers Vaccination](#) form. This form needs to be completed once only.
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. All choristers must complete the [GYMC Contact Tracing](#) form on each rehearsal day and show proof of completion to GYS staff before entering GYMC.
2. Mask wearing is mandatory: Special singer's masks will be provided, but parents may choose to send their choristers wearing whichever type of mask they deem to be the safest.
3. Choristers will be physically distanced (no less than 2 metres apart).
4. Rehearsals will last for 60 minutes, and the room will be cleared to allow for air exchange in between rehearsals.
5. Rehearsal rooms will be provided with air exchangers.
6. 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.
7. GYS will ask for 1 parent volunteer to work with staff to supervise choristers entering/leaving rehearsal space and to ensure social distancing is maintained.
8. Singing (at low volume level) can take place inside and outside with masks.

Choir III, SATB, & MTA

1. GYMC has mandated that [anyone born in 2009 or earlier](#) must provide proof (vaccination dose administration receipts) that 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 and SATB must be fully vaccinated before joining in-person rehearsals.
2. All choristers must complete the [GYMC Contact Tracing](#) form on each rehearsal day and show proof of completion to GYS staff before entering GYMC.
3. Mask wearing is mandatory: Anyone aged 16 and over is strongly encouraged to wear an N95 mask or equivalent.
4. Choristers will be physically distanced (no less than 2 metres apart).
5. Rehearsals will last for 90 minutes, and the room will be cleared to allow for air exchange in between rehearsals.
6. Rehearsal rooms will be provided with air exchangers.
7. 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.
8. 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 Contract Tracing and Liability Release](#) form. This form must be completed by each family member every day they visit GYMC.
2. Before in-person gatherings (e.g., rehearsals), all staff, volunteers, and choristers are required to take the COVID-19 self-screening test (We will seek continued guidance from WDGPH regarding COVID-19 symptoms and adapt the self-screening checklist as needed. See Appendix A for COVID-19 self-screening test.
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 90 minutes, 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

This screening test is taken from the *COVID-19 Signage Questions for Businesses and Organizations* (a screening tool created by the Ontario government).



Questions

1. **Do you currently have one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms below that are new or worsening?**

Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fever and/or chills • cough or barking cough (croup) • shortness of breath • decrease or loss of smell or taste • fatigue and/or malaise (for adults) • nausea/vomiting, and/or diarrhea (for <18 years of age) 	<p>If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select "No."</p>
---	---

2. **Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?**

This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.

3. **Do you live with someone who has been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that they should currently be isolating?** If you are fully immunized or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and since been cleared, select "No."

If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select "No."

If you answer YES to any one of the questions above, PLEASE DO NOT enter this location AND contact either your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario ([1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000)) to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test.

For more information, including exceptions to above questions, please see the patron screening tool.