

Manly-Warringah Choir – COVID19 Policy and Plan Update February 2022

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to identify and manage the risk associated with all activities of the Manly-Warringah Choir and its associates in relation to exposure to COVID19, recognising that this is a contagious and serious disease.

2. Principles underlying the Choir's COVID19 plan:

This version of the policy document is written after a long period of no choir activity and at a time in which Omicron – a highly infectious but probably less severe version - is the dominant variant.

The Management Committee acknowledges that ours is a large choir and that the majority of its members are elderly. The Committee also recognises that at the outset of the pandemic there was significant stress on the danger associated with aerosols expulsion during singing. Less emphasis is placed on this now.

The Committee recognises that the pandemic is here to stay for quite a while yet and it is not possible to sustain the choir as a singing organisation for the third year without singing. We are mindful of the social and mental harm to members associated with inactivity. In line with Australian and world governments endeavours to “learn to live with COVID”, it is time to resume the Choir's activities.

With this in mind the Choir's COVID19 plan is designed to:

- Always act in a conservative, risk-averse manner.
- Abide by the Government's regulations and consider them as a minimum level of care.
- Comply with the requirements of Collaroy Plateau Public School (the rehearsal venue).
- Leave it to individual members to decide the extent to which they wish to participate in Choir activities, accepting that we will endeavour to minimise risk, but some will always exist.

3. Scope:

The Choir's COVID19 Plan applies to:

- All Members of the Choir
- The Choir's Musical Director and accompanying Pianist
- All soloists and orchestra members who interact with the Choir
- All members of the Choir's audience

This version of the COVID19 plan is based on the assumption that:

- At present, there is no limit on the number of people who can sing indoors.
- The area created in the hall at the rehearsal school when the roller door is lifted is suitably spacious, large and well ventilated.
- This version of COVID19 plan is based on circumstances at the time of writing and will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing circumstances.

4. Responsibility:

The responsibility for enabling and following the Choir's COVID19 plan rests with the President. Judy Williams, the Choir's Vice-President will act as the COVID19 Manager. The COVID19 Manager is responsible for compliance of the plan but will delegate responsibilities to Choir members for the day-to-day tasks required for compliance.

The COVID19 Manager and Management Committee will take advice from the NSW and Federal governments and the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) and stay up to date with local circumstances.

The responsibility of behaving in line with the plan rests with all those associated with the Choir, as listed above. In particular all those associated with the Choir are required to:

- Be up to date with their vaccination status, having received a third vaccination no less than 14 days before attending rehearsals.
- Notify the COVID19 Manager if they become in any way unwell and absent themselves from any choir related activities.
- Maintain safe distance from other persons at all times, particularly at entry and exit points and at the registration desk.
- Leave a rehearsal or any choir related activity immediately if asked to do so by the COVID19 manager or members of the Management Committee, should they determine that the member appears unwell.
- Adhere at all times to current NSW Government rules for maintaining distance, testing and isolating.
- Use the Services NSW QR app to sign in at each rehearsal (or if unable to use or access it, identify another member who would sign in on their behalf). Choir members will use the school's QR code facility.

5. Required action:

The table below describes the action required as known at the time of writing. It will have to be adjusted as circumstances change.

Action	Comment	Persons responsible
Before resumption of rehearsals		
Coordinate with CPPS	Liaise with CPPS Principal regarding the hall to ensure the choir activities meet the requirements of CPPS' COVID19 Plan.	Margaret Stanley
Before, during and end of each rehearsal		
Check that the rehearsal goes ahead	Circumstances may change at short notice and rehearsal(s) may need to be cancelled. The cancellation of rehearsals will be emailed to members and posted on the Choir's website.	All Choir members, Carlos, Pianist.
Arrange the room	Chairs need to be set out 1.5 meters apart in line, not circle setting. Rows to be arranged so that no one sits directly and behind any singer. Carlos' and Pianist's settings appropriately placed at 5 meters distance from the singers.	Roger Pratt, Richard Verco
Ensure the availability of hand sanitising lotion.	Several bottles should be placed at entry.	Judy Williams, Anne Scollon
Register all attenders	Everybody to check in with the Services NSW QR system as well as sign in on the attendance sheet.	Margaret Stanley
Wearing masks by choice.	The wearing of masks is not mandatory and is up to individual members.	Everybody.
Food and drink	Bring your own. No sharing	Everybody.

Action	Comment	Persons responsible
Toilets and intervals	As much as possible people should go to the toilet during rehearsal, not at interval. Social distancing should be practised during intervals.	Everybody.
Travel to and from rehearsals	Where car-pooling occurs, it is recommended that ventilation and mask wearing should be considered.	Everybody.

Naomi Roseth,
President.

Judy Williams
Vice President

Manly-Warringah Choir Inc.

22 February 2022