

COVID-19 Protocol – updated January 2022

This protocol has been drawn up to help keep members of The Castle Choir as safe as is practicable during rehearsals and concerts. It sets out the approach we will take and is based upon UK government regulations and guidance, additional guidance issued by the Association of British Choral Directors and also published by other local choirs.

The protocol will be updated with any processes and procedures specified by the rehearsal and concert venues we use and also should regulations and guidance be updated. Updated versions of the protocol will be emailed to members and the latest version will be published on our website.

IMPORTANT | As well as the actions to provide a COVID-safe environment, it should be recognised that **each member also has a part to play by following the procedures detailed below**. However, we cannot guarantee that these safety measures will prevent people from catching coronavirus, so **you should consider whether you should attend rehearsals, depending on your personal circumstances**.

Prevention

- In line with the UK government guidance, we recommend that members are double-vaccinated before attending. If you have also had the booster
- To minimise the risk, before each rehearsal/concert, all members are requested to:
 - Take a lateral flow test
 - Wash and sanitise hands
 - Wear warm clothing and bring additional layers as doors and windows will be open where feasible
- On arrival at rehearsal, please:
 - Wear a mask until you are seated and when moving around the room
 - Avoid moving chairs closer together and sharing anything with other singers.
 - Use the sanitiser provided and avoid shaking hands or touching any surfaces in the venue as far as possible
 - Take any tissues and rubbish away with you
- We will continue to take a list of names of those who attend each session and additionally, we may take a photograph to capture where everybody is seated. This will form the basis for contacting people if anybody reports symptoms or tests positive. Photographs will be deleted within 3 weeks of the rehearsal.

Symptoms

- Do not attend a rehearsal/concert if you have cold/flu-like symptoms, a persistent cough, breathing difficulties or a loss of taste or smell or any other [COVID-19 symptoms listed by the NHS](#).
- If you begin to feel unwell with any of these symptoms during a rehearsal/concert, please go home immediately, notify Laura Gosling (castlechoirberko@gmail.com / 07815-102307) and if appropriate, contact NHS111.
- If you subsequently test positive for COVID-19, please notify Laura Gosling immediately, so she can notify other choir members who attended the same session and the venue.

Thank you for your cooperation so that we can all enjoy singing together in person as safely as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about the protocol please email Laura so we can address them and also notify her if you do not feel that you can attend for the time being so we keep you updated until you feel able to return.