

NORTHWEST GIRLCHOIR 2021-22 COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Northwest Girlchoir is dedicated to the physical, mental, and emotional health of our choristers and their families. We pledge to monitor and follow local, State and national public health policies. Parents sign a COVID-19 agreement in the beginning-of-year registration form, to accept and acknowledge the risk associated with group activity.

Health Policies

- All staff, volunteers, and choristers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 31, 2021. Exceptions will be made for choristers under age 12 and for those with a medical condition or closely held religious beliefs preventing vaccination.
- We will email you an electronic health waiver every rehearsal day. Parents are responsible for monitoring chorister's health and completing/signing the waiver at least one hour before rehearsal. Questions cover recent symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test result, and contact with someone with COVID-19. If the answer for your chorister is yes for any of the questions, please keep your chorister home from rehearsal. Once an entire choir has been vaccinated, daily health check forms will be suspended, but a one-time online waiver must be signed.
- If we are notified of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, we will follow the protocols on page two.

Facility/Class Procedures

- Rehearsal groups are intentionally limited in size to allow for three-foot social distancing and State guidelines.
- Only choristers, staff, and volunteers are allowed in the building; choristers can arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to rehearsal.
- Well-fitting masks are required at all times; if a chorister has forgotten a mask, one will be provided at check-in.
- Choristers are expected to use hand sanitizer or wash hands upon arrival.
- Only one person at a time will be allowed in bathrooms, with 3-foot distanced spots in the hallway for waiting.
- Rehearsal room windows and doors will be open for airflow, so choristers should dress for the weather. To further improve ventilation, we will be using portable HEPA air purifiers in rehearsal rooms.

Arrival/Departure Procedures

- Parents should park and walk choristers to the East Entrance; choristers will check themselves in with the staff greeter in the lobby. Parents may depart after receipt of their chorister's health waiver is confirmed.
- Choristers must maintain a 3-foot distance on the stairs, hallways, and classrooms; only one person at a time in the elevator.

FAQ:

Q: Will you be doing Zoom classes this year?

A: After evaluating state and county COVID-19 guidelines and best practices from the American Choral Directors Association, we have decided to return to singing together in person. Rather than offering virtual singing from home, we will gather our choir groups in person within a structure of COVID-19 Safety Protocols.

Q: Can we wait to enroll until after our chorister is vaccinated?

A: We offer two times to join choir this season: a September 7th start (register by August) and a January 3rd start (register by December). We hope that one of these two times will work for your family!

Q: Will Northwest Girlchoir be performing live this season? What about tours?

A: We have reserved great venues for live concerts in December, March, and June as well as Spring Fling on April 2, 2022. We look forward to welcoming our choristers back to the stage and welcoming you back to our live audience! Audience members must show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or show a negative COVID-19 test from the last 72 hours. Choir tour news will be coming soon, but we do anticipate at least some local and domestic touring by the end of the season.

If we are notified of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, we will take steps below and will not disclose the name of that person:

Suspected Case

In the case of a suspected case of COVID-19, we will

- Notify all chorister families and staff.
- Instruct staff member or chorister with a suspected case of COVID-19 – and any siblings in choir – to stay home and self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Update chorister families and staff if/when a suspected case is cleared.
- Staff or choristers with a suspected case of COVID-19 may not return to choir until they meet the conditions outlined in our Return Policy below.

Close Contact with a Suspected Case

If a chorister or staff member believes they have been in **close contact** with a person suspected of having COVID-19, they should monitor their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, headache, loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, congestion/runny nose (not related to seasonal allergies) and unusual fatigue.

“Close contact” means being closer than six feet from an infected person for at least 15 minutes, during a timespan between 48 hours before they started showing symptoms and the time the infected person is isolated (or, for individuals with no symptoms, between 48 hours before the date the positive test was collected and the time the infected person is isolated). Close contact also happens if someone with COVID-19 coughs on you, kisses you, shares utensils with you, or you have contact with their body fluids.

Confirmed Case

In the case of a “confirmed” case of COVID-19, we will:

- Notify the Public Health Seattle & King County and consult with them regarding next steps;
- Notify all chorister families and staff;
- Instruct the person with confirmed COVID-19 to stay home for 10 days;
- Instruct the following people to stay home and watch for symptoms for 14 days:
 - Those who had close contact with the person (see above);
 - Those who are in the same choir group (day/time) as the person.

Return Policy for a Person with a Suspected or Confirmed Case of COVID-19, or a Person in Close Contact

- If a person was in close contact with someone suspected of having COVID-19, they should self-quarantine for 14 days after the last day they were in close contact OR until a health care provider has certified that the suspected person does not have COVID-19.
- If a person was in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the person must quarantine for 14 days after that contact before returning to choir.
- If a person tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to choir 10 days after the positive result.
- If a person has one or more symptoms but tests negative for COVID-19, they may return to choir 24 hours after fever has resolved (without the use of fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms have improved.
- If the person has one or more symptoms and had no test, they can return to choir 14 days after symptoms started AND at least 24 hours after fever resolved (without the use of fever-reducing medication) AND symptoms have improved.