



# Covid-19 Safe Protocol – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

---

## Introduction

Covid-19 is here to stay and to sing together requires special measures to keep us safe. This protocol has been prepared by the committee and will be updated as we learn how to cope. It is based on the best available up-to-date public health advice and complies with all government guidance.

Singing is and will remain a high risk endeavour and so the protocol uses all reasonable measures to minimise the risk and help us feel safe. Any changes will be announced during rehearsals and will be emailed to members. We will avoid paper as far as possible.

## The protocol

1. Rehearsals will be held in the Minster as usual. Doors will be left open if weather permits.
2. Members will enter and exit the church wearing masks. Masks will be worn in the church until seated. Masks can be removed once seated and during singing. If you wish to be ultra secure it is recommended you wear a mask specially made for singing throughout the rehearsal.
3. It is important to avoid congestion at all times, so members are expected not to cluster or gather whilst in the Minster. To minimise congestion entering and leaving the Minster:-
  - a. On entry
    - i. we will have a gate keeper outside the North door to regulate entry. Everyone will enter by this door which will be open from 7pm; please arrive early to avoid a crush approaching 7:30
    - ii. a sample locator form is found below. These details are required should we need to contact someone in the event of infection. This must be completed before the first rehearsal and left on the table by the door on entry. Do not bring subscriptions at the first rehearsal. To reduce crowding these will be collected later.
    - iii. on the other side will be a table with our usual information and from week two – for subscriptions and to get details of new members  
when subs are collected, members should put their money - cash or cheque - in a sealed envelope with their name clearly written on the outside. The subscription will remain at £90.00 for the whole year and may be paid in two instalments of £45, one now, the other in January. The bank accepts “ADCS” or “Axminster and District Choral Society”
    - iv. please move immediately down to the back of the church to get your music
    - v. move to your voice bubble where your voice rep will help you find a seat quickly and safely.
  - b. On exit
    - i. leave your chair in place; it will be cleared by volunteers later
    - ii. please leave through one of the three doors which will be open. No chatting inside – please keep that for outside!
4. The choir will form a bubble for each voice part. We will arrange seats to keep the four bubbles separate. Masks will be worn when leaving a bubble.
5. Members are encouraged to be fully vaccinated where possible.
6. Members should take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test the afternoon of each rehearsal. Registering each week will be taken to be confirmation of this. Please speak to our Covid-19 Advisor if there is a problem. Mary Ashby SRN has kindly agreed to be our Covid-19 Advisor. She can be contacted on

07909790679. If she does not answer she may be travelling or seeing a patient. She will return your call as soon as she can. Do not come if she is unable to do that in time.

7. Attendance is strictly forbidden if you are:-
  - a. not feeling well. Covid-19 symptoms after two vaccinations in order of frequency are:
    - i. Headache
    - ii. Runny nose
    - iii. Sneezing
    - iv. Sore throat
    - v. Loss of smell
    - vi. Less common now are persistent cough, fever and shortness of breath
  - b. a contact of a case – either Test & Trace, pinged or self-identified
  - c. found to have a positive LFD test within two weeks of the rehearsal
8. A member with any Covid-19 related concern should contact our Covid-19 Advisor; her advice should be followed.

## Notes

- LFD test kits are available free of charge - see government advice [here](#) . You can order online or by phone or get the test kits from a pharmacy.
- As the LFD test is good at picking up new infectious infections the day before symptoms it offers added security. The test is not good at indicating if someone is not infected. So, the test is good when positive but poor when negative, hence the continual need for precautions.
- There are now no government regulations about what we should do – singing guidance has been withdrawn.
- Peter Parshall, our music director, has agreed to face us and therefore will be most at risk. We will be trying out perspex shielding for him and Peter Lea-Cox, our accompanist.
- Special masks for singers can be obtained online, for instance from <https://masksforchoirs.com/>
- A hand sanitizer will be available in the porch.

---

## Locator form for contact tracing purposes

|                 |  |               |  |
|-----------------|--|---------------|--|
| Name            |  | Email address |  |
| Voice part      |  | Phone number  |  |
| Current address |  |               |  |

If you move please update and re-submit your locator form.