

Escafeld Chorale – Coronavirus/COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Risk

Spread of and infection by coronavirus leading to contraction of COVID-19.

Likelihood

Variable from low to high dependant on current infection rates. However, group singing is regarded as a “super spreader” activity.

Severity level (Low, moderate or high)

High – contraction of COVID-19 can lead to a fatal outcome.

Specific risks

- Airborne infection and spread of the virus from close contact with others involved in a high-risk activity.
- Infection from touching door handles, chairs and other equipment.

Controls to mitigate risk

General

- **Strict compliance at all times with current government guidance/guidelines** and most specifically:
 - Staying at home if symptoms are experienced.
 - Self-isolation if contact has occurred with an infected person.
 - Social distancing should be maintained.
 - Wearing of masks until seated.
 - Coughing into the elbow, sneezing into a tissue. (Members should bring a plastic bag to take their rubbish home with them.)
- Each choir member to assess their own risk in view of their age and health and the age and health of anyone in their household before deciding whether to attend.
- Strict compliance at all times with guidelines (see below).
- Rehearsals will take place in the main church room with doors open.
- The choir will be seated to sing.
- Only the disabled toilet should be used.
- Kitchen cannot be used except in an emergency.

- Choir members will not be allowed on the lower floor of the church and should not move around either the rehearsal hall or the building generally once they have taken their seats for rehearsal.
- Entry will only be allowed via the main entrance. Car park at the rear may be used but the alleyway at the side of the church should only be used during daylight hours.
- Members may be asked to arrive at slightly different times to avoid crowding.
- Members, accompanist and Musical Director will be asked for up-to-date contact information prior to rehearsals commencing.
- Part reps to devise seating plans to accommodate the personal preferences of each choir member. Once seats have been allocated these should be retained until such time as normal rehearsals resume.
- Car sharing to and from rehearsals will be dependent on current government guidelines.
- Members who wish to attend rehearsals under these restrictions must register their interest and confirm that they have read and accepted the guidelines.

Arrival

1. Two stewards to be appointed for each week. Steward A will open windows, sanitise and put out the musical directors stand and will sanitise and lay out the chairs. Chairs to be laid out 2m apart (or in accordance with current government guidance) and staggered row to row so that no one will be sitting immediately behind a person in the row in front.
2. Steward B will fasten open all doors through which members must pass to get to rehearsal (including, for the time being, any fire doors).
3. Choir members should arrive **at the appointed time**. If early they should wait in their cars or at a distance from the church. Members should queue, socially distanced on the main church drive and will not be allowed access to the church until steward B has marked their names on the register and allowed them entry, one by one. Hand sanitiser will be available at this point. At first rehearsal it would be helpful if part reps arrived first to sort out any seating issues.
4. Once a choir member has taken their seat they should not move around the rehearsal hall whether socially distanced or not.
5. Once all choir members have taken their seats both stewards should ensure any fire doors are closed but dependant on weather, leave open any other doors.

Music Distribution and Collection

1. To be agreed with Librarian and Library team.

Accompanist and Musical Director (MD)

1. The accompanist and musical director will follow the same rules as members when arriving for rehearsal and during rehearsal.
2. The accompanist will comply with all requirements which may be in force at any time, for sanitising the piano. (Guidance to be sought from the church.)

Rehearsal

1. Warm up – no exercises which involve strong exhalations of air or touching the face.
2. A short break may be taken during rehearsal but members will have to bring their own refreshments and would not be allowed to move around the room and socialise.
3. Only the disabled toilet will be used until further notice. Door handles and toilet should be sanitised by the user both before and after use.
4. Members to be advised to bring their own hand sanitiser and to use it during rehearsal.

Departure

1. A phased departure, row by row, to be controlled by Steward B who will again fasten all doors open prior to the first member leaving.
2. Each member to stack their own chair before leaving, supervised by Steward A. Chairs with arms to be stacked in 4s, those without arms in 5s.
3. Stewards will then check toilets and ensure any fire doors are closed before leaving.