

## Canberra Qwire COVID-19 POLICY and PLAN for Face-to-Face Rehearsals

Updated May 2022

### Introduction

Canberra Qwire Committee has sourced the advice of Government health authorities and the Australian National Choral Association to guide us in our return to face-to-face rehearsals.

Although the ACT Government allows choirs to rehearse, it advises that “group singing is a high-risk activity as the increased projection of voices increases the chances of spreading COVID-19”. We must all be mindful of following public health directions and requirements at all times ([covid19.act.gov.au](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au)).

We therefore approach face-to-face rehearsals with great care and caution. The Qwire Committee has decided that attendees must be fully vaccinated (including boosters aligned to ACT Health requirements/medical advice) unless they have a medical exemption. You may be asked to prove your vaccination status. Those with medical exemptions are asked to notify the Qwire Secretary by email [secretary@canberraqwire.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberraqwire.org.au) prior to their first rehearsal attendance.

At present, face masks must be worn at indoor rehearsals, including whilst singing. They may be removed if outside, for example during a break. For any outdoor rehearsals, use of facemasks is optional. They should be worn if inside, for example during a break.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Members must comply with this policy and plan. If you do not, a Committee member will ask you to leave the rehearsal. It is important for all members to take personal responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others.

If a Qwire member or attendee at rehearsal:

- tests positive to COVID-19; or
- has been exposed to COVID-19 at a high or moderate risk level,

they must inform the Qwire Secretary (0407 553207) or the Event Manager (0447 771518) immediately by phone or text. Appropriate follow up action to inform Qwire members will be taken.

## Step 1 QWIRE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Qwire Committee will:

- Ensure that anyone attending Qwire rehearsals is briefed on this plan before they attend and that they agree to abide by the plan;
- Require all attendees to be fully vaccinated (including boosters aligned to ACT Health requirements/medical advice) unless medical exemptions apply;
- Secure an appropriate rehearsal venue that allows for the spacing of singers. This spacing will be based on the best evidence available to the Committee, and reviewed regularly.
- Determine the safe maximum number of members who may attend any particular rehearsal, taking into account the dimensions and nature of the venue, and health advice.
- Determine if face masks should be worn indoors while singing.
- Invite anyone planning to attend a Qwire rehearsal to formally pre-register, and check attendance at each rehearsal so that we have a contact trace register;
- Prepare the rehearsal venue by:
  - Providing signage to remind attendees of the social distancing requirements and conditions of entry including the use of the Check In CBR App
  - Ensuring appropriate ventilation commensurate with local conditions and elements of risk of community transmission
  - Ensuring that entry and exit doorways are clearly obvious to attendees
  - Establishing a system at the rehearsal venue for checking that those entering the rehearsal space are formally registered to attend the specific rehearsal and that attendees use the Check In CBR App or provide their details manually
  - Requiring that singers and the music team are at the currently recommended distance apart at all times
  - Providing hand sanitizer at a number of locations in the rehearsal venue
  - Providing access to disinfecting wipes for those attending rehearsals to clean chairs if they wish
  - If necessary, conducting temperature checks with a TGA-approved contact-free thermometer
- Ensure that the COVID-safe responsibilities in this policy and plan are clearly allocated to specific Committee members for each rehearsal or to other designated Qwire members

- Advise attendees of allowable numbers of users for toilets/bathrooms and bathroom foyers
  
- If Qwire Committee is informed an attendee at rehearsal has tested positive to COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19, take appropriate action to inform other Qwire members

## Step 2      REGISTRATION

Members and other attendees will receive an invitation from the Committee to pre-register and agree to abide by this Policy and Plan. Accepting this invitation is required if you wish to attend a rehearsal. No agreement means no admission.

### Members should not attend if:

- On the day of rehearsal, or in the 48 hours prior to rehearsal, you have experienced ANY of the following symptoms: flu-like symptoms including cough, sore/scratchy throat; raised temperature above 37.5 degrees Celsius; shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhea, loss of appetite unless these are features of a chronic medical condition you might have.
- Have had any international travel in the last 14 days that is outside any Government-recognised travel bubble
- Have tested positive to COVID-19 within the last 14 days
- Are awaiting test results for COVID-19
- If you have been considered to have been exposed to a COVID positive case in the last 7 days and are classified as 'high risk' (includes being a household contact - this starts from the last time someone in the household tests positive). To return to rehearsal AFTER 7 days members need to have returned a negative covid test result within 48 hours of rehearsal. If there is no negative result, then that member should stay away from rehearsal for 14 days. (The day of exposure can count as Day 1)
- If you have been considered to have been exposed to a COVID positive case in the last 7 days and are classified as 'moderate' risk - to return to rehearsal AFTER 7 days members need to have returned a negative covid test result within 48 hours of rehearsal. If there is no negative result, then that member should stay away from rehearsal for 14 days. (The day of exposure can count as Day 1)
- Your contact details on the website are not up to date

NOTE: You may now attend rehearsals if you are considered to have had 'low risk' exposure to COVID19 if you have no symptoms. Some of the above measures may be more cautious than current public health requirements. We emphasize your responsibility for your own health and the health of other members. Only those members who have registered may attend. It is important that your contact details are up to date on the Qwire website for follow up COVID-19 contact tracing.

### Step 3 YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AT REHEARSALS :

- Use the hand sanitizer provided on arrival and exit – hand sanitizer will be available around the venue.
- Particularly if you are new to Qwire, check in with the Committee at the door to ensure that you are eligible to attend, maintaining social distancing at all times.
- On arrival at the rehearsal check in using the Check In CBR App.
- If requested, provide evidence of your vaccination status.
- Do not congregate at the entrance or exit doorways. Move quickly in or out of the venue.
- Walk straight into the venue to a marked position in the chorus line. If necessary, singer/part positions will be marked on the venue floor.
- If required, have your temperature taken with a contact free thermometer
- No hugging, kissing, touching of any sort!
- You are also free to use a face shield or any other personal protective equipment including a face mask.
- If you wish, use the disinfecting wipes provided to clean your chair at the start and the end of rehearsal.
- Leave your chair in place, unless requested otherwise.
- Bring your own water and/or snacks as we will not share communal food or drink
- Bring your own music, pencil, etc and do not share these or other personal belongings with any other member.
- When entering toilets/bathrooms and bathroom foyers note allowable numbers of users.
- Respect other members' wishes to be physically separated.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Abide by all directions given at rehearsals, and graciously and quietly leave if directed to do so.
- Maintain social distancing as you leave the venue.

## Statement of Compliance – to be agreed at the time of registration for attending rehearsals each week

- I have read and agree to comply with the Canberra Qwire COVID-19 Policy and Plan.
- I will follow all public health directions and requirements at all times (covid19.act.gov.au)
- I will abide by all directions given at rehearsals and will graciously and quietly leave if directed to do so by a Committee member.

Canberra Qwire Committee  
May 2022