



Chime Choir Pandemic Plan

Last Edited: 6th October 2022

Note: This plan supersedes all previous versions.

Our goal in Chime Choir is to continue to make music together to whatever degree we can whilst supporting community health measures during periods of heightened health response. This document has been prepared during the COVID pandemic of 2020 onwards, but also serves as a general statement of intent.

This document will be reviewed and updated routinely, and when restrictions or public health advice change significantly.

General Principles

1. Chime Choir will adhere to government restrictions and recommendations during a pandemic, along with any venue-specific requirements.
2. Within government and venue requirements, Chime Committee will make decisions based on the information available, and taking into account the overall health and safety of members.
3. Chime members are encouraged to (as always) treat each other with respect and with the understanding that individual circumstances can vary considerably between members.
4. Regardless of any government or venue requirements, Chime members are requested not to attend any event if they have reason to believe that they are at risk of transmitting an infectious disease. The Choir will endeavour to make remote participation possible in all rehearsals to support those who are unable to attend physically for whatever reason.
5. Choristers, Staff and affiliates who have tested positive to the pandemic disease, OR who have been in contact with a positive case, AND who have attended a choir event/rehearsal within the past 7 days, should notify the Chime Committee immediately.
6. The privacy of individuals will be respected and relevant information must be kept confidential and secure. For contact tracing and exposure notifications, the name and details of a positive case will only be disclosed if permission has been granted.
7. Chime members are requested to inform themselves about the nature and management measures around any current pandemic, including symptoms to watch for, known exposure sites, and isolation measures. To access current information, the Victorian Government's website is at <https://www.vic.gov.au/>

Specific measures

- **Safety Officer**

During a pandemic, the Chime Committee will designate a safety officer for each official Chime Choir rehearsal/event, to:

- Liaise with the Artistic Director or event organiser and assist in implementing this pandemic plan at the rehearsal/event, including resolving any ambiguities such as whether to use face masks.
- Ensure that the plan functions well, and note any areas where we can improve
- Record vaccination status if required by the Government or the venue (vaccination status only needs to be confirmed once or if requirements change).
- Record attendance electronically as required at the rehearsal/event. A Stack Team App report can then be generated for Chime record keeping or contact tracing.
- Report back to the Committee on the above.

- **Respiratory and Hand Hygiene**

Physical distancing can be facilitated by one or more of the following:

- Using multiple microphones for group recording sessions
- Arranging singers such that they are not facing one another
- Reinforcing the message that physical distancing needs to be maintained
- Ensuring that rehearsal/event venues will be sufficiently large and ventilated to accommodate expected numbers
- Applying the required density quotients at indoor rehearsal/event venues
- Holding small-group rehearsals/events, as appropriate

Hygiene will be facilitated by one or more of the following:

- Hand sanitiser will be available upon entry
- Avoid sharing of equipment such as devices, stationery, headsets, sheet music, instruments

- **Face masks**

- If current restrictions allow for masks to not be worn, then masks are optional, including while singing, provided social distancing and ventilation requirements are met.
- Subject to a Committee decision or any additional Government or venue guidance, if the recommended physical distancing or ventilation guidance cannot be met, then masks will be worn during rehearsals.
- Masks will not be worn during performances or recordings. However, the risk management around any such event will be considered and approved by the Committee, and will be in line with Government and venue guidance.
- A supply of disposable masks will be available for contingencies

- **Catering during supper breaks**

Supper will, in principle, be provided to choristers, while adhering to recommended food-handling practises.

This can be facilitated by one or more of the following:

- Only providing individual servings of food items that can be served/taken away without touching other portions
- Not providing shared platters, such as chips, cheese or dips, or whole, uncut cakes
- Providing tea bags and coffee in large bowls, using individual disposable spoons, to minimise cross-contact
- Providing individual portions of long-life milk to minimise cross-contact.
- Having choristers supply their own cup/mug
- Having one person serve the hot water (to avoid multiple people touching the urn), or providing hand sanitiser near the urn.

- **Cleaning after a rehearsal or performance**

Unless a venue provides its own cleaning services, the Chime Committee will ensure that all high touch surfaces, in venues used by the Chime Choir, have been cleaned and disinfected.

This will be facilitated by:

- Allocating a member to carry out cleaning with appropriate cleaning products provided
- Identifying high touch surfaces to be cleaned (in all rooms used, including toilet facilities), such as: light switches, door handles and push plates, chair arms, reception counters, etc.

- **Feedback**

Feedback for improving this plan is welcomed and can be made to individual Chime Committee members, or via the group email address (committee@chime.org.au).