

OCC's COVID protocols for the Fall 2022 season

The Outer Cape Chorale's COVID protocols for the Fall 2022 season are intended to support our goal of maintaining a minimal risk environment for our singers and audiences, while enabling reasonable and practical conditions for rehearsal and concert performance.

We recognize that conditions and circumstances may change over the course of the season, and that OCC may need to adapt or update our protocols accordingly. Any such changes will be clearly communicated to all singers enrolled in the Fall 2022 season. Singers will make individual decisions regarding their ongoing participation.

Rehearsals

- Singers will wear masks during rehearsals.
- Chairs will be placed with approximately 3 feet between them. Singers are asked not to move the chairs from this set up.
- There will be a 15-minute break between the first rehearsal and the second rehearsal on Thursday evenings. Sopranos and Altos are asked to exit the room promptly after the first rehearsal. Tenors and Basses are asked to wait to enter until 5 minutes before the start of the second rehearsal. This is to allow the ventilation system time to recirculate the air.
- Singers must not attend rehearsals or events:
 - if they are not feeling well (including COVID symptoms as well as any other symptoms, such as those experienced with cold or flu), or
 - if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID.
- Singers will inform Allison immediately by emailing info@outercapechorale.org:
 - if they become ill (including illnesses other than COVID) within 3 days of attending a rehearsal, or
 - if they learn that they were a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID during the 5-day period before attending rehearsal.
 - OCC reserves the right to inform other singers if these situations occur.

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- Singers who test positive should not return to rehearsals until **both** of the following are true:
 - A rapid test shows a negative result and at least 5 days have elapsed since the first positive test, **and**
 - The singer is free from fever for at least 24 hours and any other symptoms have substantially subsided.

Upon returning to rehearsal, the singer should wear a well-fitting mask at all times before, during, and after rehearsal.

Concerts

Note that protocols for the December concerts will be finalized nearer to the concert dates. The following represents our currently anticipated protocols.

Masks

- Audience members will be required to be masked at all times. Note that audience members will not be asked about vaccination status.
- Backstage, singers will be masked at all times.
- It has not yet been decided whether singers will be required to wear masks during the performance. This decision will be made nearer the concert dates. Regardless of OCC protocol, individual singers may choose to wear masks during the performance if they wish.

Distancing

- Onstage, singers will be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. The specific arrangement will be worked out based on the space available in each venue.
- At dress rehearsal, Allison will explain how each choir will enter and exit during the performance.

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Before the concerts

- Singers will be required to perform a COVID rapid test on the day of the dress rehearsal (12/7) and on the day of each of the three December concerts (12/9, 12/10, and 12/11). If a singer's rapid test is positive on any of these dates, they must not attend any of the remaining dress rehearsal or concert events. Singers who test positive should also immediately notify Allison by emailing info@outercapechorale.org about their test results.

NOTE – free rapid tests (up to 8 per month) are available for seniors on Medicare at many retail pharmacies, including CVS. For anyone wishes to do a rapid test, but doesn't have access to test kits, OCC will help you to obtain them – just ask your Section Leader, a Board member, or Allison.

- If a singer has confirmed COVID exposure within 5 days of the 12/7 dress rehearsal or the 12/9, 12/10, and 12/11 concerts, they should not attend or participate in the concerts. Please inform Allison immediately by emailing info@outercapechorale.org if this occurs. Exposure means being in close proximity for 15 minutes or more with someone who tested positive. If in doubt, we ask that you err on the side of caution and remain at home.
- Singers should attempt to limit their public activities in the 10 days leading up to the concert. We realize this is not always practical, but it would be prudent to avoid situations that might create unnecessary risk. Earlier in 2022, some of the COVID exposure that we experienced may have been related to public activities during a period of elevated COVID risk.