

Hoylake Choral Society Risk Assessment for Covid safe rehearsals for the period 12th January 2022 to 3rd May 2022.		
1.	Why have a formal risk assessment?	<p>HCS Committee’s aim is to make rehearsals as safe and secure as possible whilst maintaining the joy of the social interaction that singing in a choir brings. We are sure that each member of the choir will behave responsibly and respectfully and will try to keep to the guidelines in this document. Choir members will receive a copy of this document and a copy will be available via the HCS website.</p> <p>We will monitor changes in the UK Government’s guidance to ensure this document meets the requirements and expectations placed upon us.</p>
2.	What has influenced and informed our approach?	<p>Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has confirmed (17 August 2021) that, in England, <i>There will be no limits on the number of people, including choirs and any other amateur performance groups, that can gather to rehearse indoors or outdoor. The need to socially distance has been removed</i></p> <p>In addition, DCMS advise of six priority actions for organisations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete a health and safety risk assessment that includes risks from COVID-19. 2. Turn people with COVID-19 symptoms away. 3. Provide adequate ventilation. 4. Clean more often. 5. Enable people to check in at your venue. 6. Communicate and train.
3.	Who is responsible for this risk assessment?	Hoylake Choral Society Committee
4.	What is the risk?	The overriding risk at rehearsals is Covid transmission.
5.	Who is at risk?	Choir members, the Musical Director and accompanist attending rehearsals, their families, and wider contacts in the community.

The rest of this document describes the risks and mitigations and highlights the responsibility each person, attending a rehearsal, has to ensure they are safe and that those around them are safe.

Risk description	Actions to minimize this risk	Who is responsible
<p>Covid transmission – prior to coming to rehearsals</p>	<p>DO NOT come to rehearsal if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have symptoms of COVID-19. You should self-isolate and take a PCR test, even if these symptoms are mild. • You have tested positive (PCR or Lateral Flow test) for Covid 19 • You have been told to self isolate • Someone you have close contact with has tested positive • You are quarantining after a visit abroad <p>We encourage members to take regular PCR and Lateral Flow tests.</p> <p>The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) • a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) • a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal <p>Please note the recent change (Jan 2022) in relation to isolation periods outlined below. This sees a change for some people and in certain circumstances, from 10 days to 7 days.</p>	<p>All members of Hoylake Choral Society, Musical Director, and accompanist</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who receive negative LFD results on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period – with tests taken 24 hours apart – will no longer have to self-isolate for the full 10 days. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period. • Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 7 are strongly advised to limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID- 19. • There is no change to the guidance for unvaccinated contacts of positive COVID-19 cases, who are still required to self-isolate for 10 full days after their date of exposure to the virus. (www.gov.uk). 	
<p>Covid transmission – at the venue and prior to rehearsal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanliness of the rehearsal hall and the furniture and surfaces will be cleaned under the regime put in place by Hope Church management • Prior to the rehearsal the chairs will be set out chequer board style with a 1m spacing around each chair. • Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance door (middle door of the building) • Windows in the rehearsal hall to be opened <p>Accessing Hope Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will use the middle door of the church to access the hall. We suggest that members enter the building in single file and continue to do so until entering the main hall. • Members are asked to wear a mask to enter the building and remove the mask only once seated. 	<p>Hope Church and HCS Committee HCS Committee</p> <p>All members of Hoylake Choral Society Musical Director and accompanist</p>

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Covid transmission - at the venue and during rehearsal	<p>Checking-in process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice part registers will be taken at each rehearsal and records maintained by the Committee • HCS committee will be using the *'WellRehearsed App' <p>Ventilation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All windows in the hall will remain open during the rehearsal (it is suggested that members bring extra layers of warm clothing) • Members will be asked to remain seated and keep mingling in the break to a minimum • Members are asked to be respectful of social distancing and keep 1m apart • If members leave their seat, we ask that they wear a mask <p>Aerosol Contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir will be 2m from the Musical Director and Accompanist • Musical Director and Accompanist may wish to wear a visor or mask • Volume – latest scientific research shows that volume has a big impact on the amount of aerosols generated. We aim to manage this by keeping the number of people singing at rehearsal to no more than 55 people. The hall has the ability to seat this number of people, chequerboard style, safely. In addition, the Musical Director's instructions about volume will be adhered to. <p>Toilets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will follow the venue protocol which is that one person at a time should use the toilet. This rule applies to the ladies and gents facilities. 	<p>HCS Committee</p> <p>All members of Hoylake Choral Society, Musical Director, and accompanist</p>

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Covid transmission - at the end of the rehearsal	<p>Members are asked to leave the hall in an orderly fashion, wearing a face mask and minimise social interaction in the hall. Members do not have to stack their chair.</p> <p>Stacking of Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 to 4 volunteers will stack the chairs once the majority of the membership has left the hall and will close windows <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no specific actions as this is the responsibility of Hope Church 	<p>All members of Hoylake Choral Society, Musical Director, and accompanist</p> <p>HCS Committee</p>
Covid Transmission - General	<p>Follow any protocols the venue has in place</p> <p>Avoid touching surfaces as much as possible</p> <p>Members will have their own music and will not share music</p> <p>Use personal hand sanitizer</p> <p>Wear a mask to enter and leave the building and whilst moving around the hall</p>	<p>All members of Hoylake Choral Society, Musical Director, and accompanist</p>

***WellRehearsed App** is a joint initiative between *abcd* and Making Music to help generate statistics on music making activities in the UK. It is a way of anonymously reporting that all is well or otherwise at our rehearsal. HCS Secretary will administer this on behalf of HCS. **If you are unable to attend rehearsal for one or more of the following reasons, please let us know by emailing membership.hcs@hotmail.com**

- You have symptoms of COVID-19 (a new, persistent cough; a high temperature; or loses/has changes to their sense of taste or smell). You should self-isolate and take a PCR test, even if these symptoms are mild.
- You have tested positive (PCR or Lateral Flow test) for Covid 19
- You have been told to self isolate
- Someone you have close contact with has tested positive
- You are quarantining after a visit abroad