

**Anne Arundel Chapter (J-003), Sons of the Severn
Barbershop Harmony Society, Mid-Atlantic District
Return to “In-Person Rehearsals” - Guidelines and Procedures
2 May 2021, V.2. (Revised 26 May 2021) – Includes New BHS Guidance**

Background

Moving closer to the end of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic as infections, hospitalizations and deaths have decreased here in Maryland and more specifically in Anne Arundel County, restrictions are being lifted based on national, state, and local metrics.

On April 8, 2021, we contacted and heard back from Mike William, the Chair of the Trinity United Methodist Church Board of Trustees who let me know that there are no restrictions on the part of the church for the chorus to return to “in-person” rehearsals. To do so, we need to file a guidelines/procedures document with him and notify both him and Ms. Wanda Lee TUMC Church Custodian of the start date.

While we encourage members to get vaccinated, we will not require vaccinations nor will we be asking for copies of “shots” records to resume rehearsals. We expect that members will be honest about their health and not put other members “at-risk.” We will put into place guidelines/procedures you may disagree with based on local restrictions that may differ from State and National guidance. As board members, we will not engage in political debates but rely on the current science as our job is to protect the well-being of our members while in our care.

Any guidelines/procedures for “in-person rehearsals will follow and be based upon CDC, State, and Anne Arundel County (and BHS) guidelines with links to that current guidance included at the end of this document. Also be aware that guidance for “choral groups” differs by the fact that the CDC early on classified us as “super-emitters” and there has been a lot of research done on the aerosol spread with guidance provided for safe return to rehearsals. As always, we need to recognize that plans change and so will the guidance from authorities - hopefully, relaxed.

We recognize that some of you may not be ready to return as you may still be uncomfortable being in groups of people, have health concerns, be wary of variants, and be concerned about the overall protection that vaccines provide. **The Board wants you to know that we will welcome you back when you are ready!**

Please read carefully the Guidance and Procedures for Outdoor and Indoor Rehearsals. We hope that we have done enough as a board to provide a safe environment so that you may feel confident rejoining the chorus for “in-person” rehearsals. We encourage you to continue to mask when appropriate, handwash, and avoid crowds, and get vaccinated if you have not done so. We look forward to seeing you again and singing together!!

Guidance and Procedures for Indoor at Outdoor Rehearsals - Effective - June 1, 2021 (Revised 26 May 2021)

In-person outdoor rehearsals

1. Members will be administered a temperature check at the door. Members above the accepted body temperature threshold will be asked to forego rehearsal that evening.
 - a. *Normal body temperature varies by person, age, activity, and time of day. The average normal body temperature is generally accepted as 98.6°F (37°C). Some studies have shown that the "normal" body temperature can have a wide range, from 97°F (36.1°C) to 99°F (37.2°C). A temperature over 100.4°F (38°C) most often means you have a fever caused by an infection or illness (2 July 2019) Source: <https://medlineplus.gov>*
2. Members will sign in and acknowledge that they are aware of the “current” Guidance and Procedures document.
3. It is recommended that non-vaccinated members wear a well-fitting mask that covers both their nose and mouth based on current CDC, State, and AACo. guidance. Fully vaccinated* members will not be required to mask. The chorus will provide an “emergency” supply of one-time-use masks. (You can go online and find “singers masks” made specifically for our purpose).
4. Fully vaccinated* singers are no longer required to maintain social distance. Non-vaccinated members need to be spaced 6 feet from those that are non-masked.
5. Timing of rehearsals - No more than 60 minutes outdoors (w/6ft. spacing and recommended time a minimum of 5 minutes between sessions).
6. Proper hygiene - frequent hand washing, cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
7. No food or drink will be provided by the chorus. It is suggested members provide their own water bottle.
8. Access to bathrooms will be available inside the church. The church will be unlocked and we are only responsible for cleaning up behind us as we have always done. The church is sanitized nightly using an atomizer.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as in general, people are considered fully vaccinated (CDC Definition):

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

In-person indoor rehearsals

1. Members will be administered a temperature check at the door. Members above the accepted body temperature threshold will be asked to forego rehearsal that evening.
 - a. *Normal body temperature varies by person, age, activity, and time of day. The average normal body temperature is generally accepted as 98.6°F (37°C). Some studies have shown that the "normal" body temperature can have a wide range, from 97°F (36.1°C) to 99°F (37.2°C). A temperature over 100.4°F (38°C) most often means you have a fever caused by an infection or illness (2 July 2019) Source: <https://medlineplus.gov>*
2. Members will sign in and acknowledge that they are aware of the "current" Guidance and Procedures document.
3. It is recommended that non-vaccinated members wear a well-fitting mask that covers both their nose and mouth based on current CDC, State, and AACo. guidance. Fully vaccinated* members will not be required to mask. The chorus will provide an "emergency" supply of one-time-use masks. (You can go online and find "singers masks" made specifically for our purpose).
4. Fully vaccinated* singers are no longer required to maintain social distance. Non-vaccinated members need to be spaced 6 feet from those that are non-masked.
5. Timing of rehearsals - No more than 30 minutes (w/6ft. spacing and a minimum of one air change between sessions with recommended time at least 5 minutes between sessions).
6. Airflow & Filtration - recommended good airflow and exchange (use of air conditioning, open doors). Change spaces, if possible.
7. Proper hygiene - frequent hand washing, cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
8. No food or drink will be provided by the chorus. It is suggested members provide their own water bottle.
9. Access to bathrooms will be available. The church is sanitized nightly using an atomizer.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as in general, people are considered fully vaccinated (CDC Definition):

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or

- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
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Sources

Anne Arundel County - Road to Recovery (15 May 2021) - aligned to the State of MD restrictions

<https://www.aacounty.org/coronavirus/road-to-recovery/>

Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland Number 21-05-14-01 Amending and Restating the Order of May 12, 2021, Requiring Use of Face Coverings in Certain Circumstances

<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Gatherings-24th-AMENDED-5.14.21.pdf>

When You've Been Fully Vaccinated: How to Protect Yourself and Others (CDC, 16 May 2021)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Reopening, Unmasking, & Face-to-Face Teaching (April 16, 2021) from the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) which includes "risk assessment" questions

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd74ei_Xg_E

NEW - COVID-19 - Interim Guidance for BHS Ensembles and Singing Communities (V1.4 rev. 5-14-2021)

<https://files.barbershop.org/PDFs/COVID/COVID-19-Interim-Guidance-for-BHS-Ensembles-and-Singing-Communities-v1.4.pdf>

COVID-19 Resources for Barbershoppers - Landing Page

<https://www.barbershop.org/landing-pages/covid-19-resources-for-barbershoppers>