

STE PING FORWARD

RESIDENT CHOIR PROGRAM Spring Operational Plan

Written with the affirmation and support of the
Board of Directors *of the Pensacola Children's Chorus*
March 6, 2022



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FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 4, 2022

The Pensacola Children's Chorus has been fortunate to enjoy the support of so many gracious, understanding, and flexible stakeholders. Singers, parents, and patrons alike have been patient with us as we face challenging decisions regarding the well-being of our participants and the vibrancy of our programs. With every policy and procedure that has been updated and scrutinized, we have striven to lead with people first. I hope you have witnessed that in your experiences with PCC over these past several months.

While our journey in this pandemic is not yet over, we are fortunate that science remains on our side. Thankfully, the omicron variant is much less aggressive than its predecessors, and while positive cases are still prevalent, they are much less severe. We at PCC are elated by this news. Our comprehensive health and safety protocols have not only kept our singers, staff, and volunteers safe, they have enabled us to enjoy uninterrupted programming. For this, we are most grateful. It would not have been possible without your patience and cooperation.

Putting all these factors together, along with updated recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I can share that as of March 7, 2022, **masks are optional** for PCC programs.

While I recognize that this is good news for some, for others it may be cause for concern. PCC will continue to practice physical distancing in rehearsals and limit close contact with one another for extended periods of time. Additionally, masks will continue to be available for singers who wish to wear them in rehearsal. However, they are no longer required for participation.

All this being said, it's important to bear in mind that as a community, we enjoyed a similar decrease in COVID severity at this time last year. While we are hopeful that this latest wave marks a turning point in the virus's impact on our daily lives, PCC retains the right to implement necessary health and safety protocols in order to protect our programs and our most valuable assets: our singers. We appreciate your understanding and hope that you will continue to demonstrate as much if that circumstance is realized in the future.

Mask or no mask, the Pensacola Children's Chorus continues to be a one-of-a-kind opportunity for young people in Northwest Florida. There are plenty of voice studios that can teach you how to sing. There are plenty of dance studios to teach you how to dance. Yet there is no opportunity that combines the two in the transformative way that is unique to PCC. Here, not only are music and dance taught at the highest level, they are done in such a way that motivates personal growth—not just as musicians, but as people. You've chosen PCC as the place for your child. We honor and appreciate the trust you place in us.

Together, we have made the Pensacola Children's Chorus what it is today. Thank you for your continued support.



INTRODUCTION

With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the act of making music has been scrutinized more than ever before. Doctors, scientists, engineers, and teachers have since come together in extraordinary ways to evaluate the safety of music-making and make recommendations on how these activities can occur in a pandemic-ridden society. These recommendations, along with guidance from local doctors; adherence to state and federal laws; and learned experience over the past 18 months have contributed to the completion of this plan. The values of our original COVID-19 Response Framework (adopted in May 2020) remain at the forefront of these procedures. As we inch toward a post-pandemic society once more, the prospect of “normal” becomes more and more real.

ADAPTATIONS

This plan is a living, breathing document. Plans and policies will change as the impact of the coronavirus continues to weave uncertainly through our daily lives. We continue to incorporate the guidance from [an unprecedented international study on the distribution of respiratory aerosol](#) as a result of performing arts and aerobic activities. Organic changes to this plan will be at the discretion of staff under the direction of the Artistic & Executive Director. Major pivots will first be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

The Resident Choir Program will begin as scheduled in the fall. Adhering to pre-pandemic policies, singers may join either in September or January.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The following rehearsal schedule will be observed for the 2021-2022 season ([a full calendar is viewable online](#)):

<u>Choir</u>	<u>Grade(s)</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Weekend Rehearsals</u> (beginning in Feb.)	
Preparatory	1-2	Thursday	3:45-4:30	n/a	
Choristers	3	Monday	3:30-4:30	n/a	
Festival & Lyric	4-5	Monday	4:45-6:00	Select Saturdays	9:00-10:30a
Concert	6-8	Thursday	5:00-6:15	Select Saturdays	11:00a-1:00p
Ensemble	6-8	Thursday	6:30-7:30	Select Saturdays	1:30-3:00p
Choraliers	9-12	Tuesday	7:00-8:15	Select Sundays	1:00-2:30p
Chorale	9-12	Tuesday	4:15-5:15	Select Sundays	5:00-6:00p
Young Singers	9-12	Tuesday	5:30-6:45	Select Sundays	2:45-4:45p
Ambassadors	7-12	Thursday	7:45-8:30	n/a	

TUITION & FEES

The following schedule of full-price tuition and fees will apply to the 2021-2022 season:

<u>Choir(s)</u>	<u>Grade(s)</u>	<u>Reg. Fee</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Preparatory	1-2	\$ 185.00	\$ 55.00
Choristers	3	\$ 365.00	\$ 65.00
Festival & Lyric	4-5	\$ 365.00	\$ 85.00
Concert	6-8	\$ 365.00	\$ 95.00
Ensemble	6-8	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Choraliers & Chorale	9-12	\$ 365.00	\$ 95.00
Young Singers	9-12	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Ambassadors	7-12	\$ -	\$ 25.00

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

eSing, PCC's virtual choir during the 2020-2021 season, will be discontinued, unless further developments in the pandemic require its return.



QUARANTINE POLICIES

While we wish it was a thing of the past, quarantine still remains a possibility. Please refer to the following quarantine policies, which are derived from current CDC guidance (updated January 2, 2022) and local policies:

CONFIRMED EXPOSURE

Individuals (including singers, staff, and volunteers) who have knowingly been exposed to a symptomatic or asymptomatic person with diagnosed COVID-19 **MAY CONTINUE to participate in PCC activities** so long as any of the following is true:

- Exposed individual was fully vaccinated
- Exposed individual who is not fully vaccinated was within 6 feet of the infected individual for no more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period
- Exposed individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 3 months *AND* was within 6 feet of the infected individual for no more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period

If none of the conditions above can be met, the individual **CANNOT PARTICIPATE in in-person PCC activities** for a minimum of 7 days (see “Returning to In-Person PCC Activities” below).

Singers who have been exposed to a diagnosed individual, but remain asymptomatic, are still required to participate virtually in PCC rehearsals. Refer to “Zoom Rehearsal Participation” below for more information.

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON PCC ACTIVITIES

An exposed individual may return to in-person activities by satisfying the following conditions:

WITHOUT Diagnostic Testing

- A minimum of **10 days** has passed since the date of confirmed exposure
- *AND* no symptoms were observed during daily monitoring

WITH Diagnostic Testing

- A minimum of **7 days** has passed since the date of confirmed exposure
- *AND* a negative COVID-19 test has been obtained no earlier than Day 5 after confirmed exposure
- *AND* no symptoms were observed during daily monitoring

CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS

Individuals (including singers, staff, and volunteers) who have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis cannot participate in in-person PCC activities until cleared by their doctor. For isolation periods lasting less than 14 days without diagnostic testing, a doctor’s note will be required.

EXPOSURE TO ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUAL

Some local schools have crafted policies that alter quarantine requirements for individuals who are exposed to an individual who is asymptomatic yet diagnosed with COVID-19. The aforementioned quarantine policy **supersedes school district guidelines related to mandatory quarantine**. In this, PCC fully exercises its authority as a private business that is not affiliated nor restricted by any umbrella company, school district, or other entity (aside from local, state, and federal authorities). Individuals with a previous positive COVID infection (no more than 90 days prior) are exempt from this protocol unless symptoms develop.

GRIEVANCES

Individuals who take issue with PCC’s quarantine policies must issue a formal grievance **in writing** to the Artistic & Executive Director. Upon receipt, the Artistic & Executive Director will bring the grievance to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at their next meeting for review. Until a ruling is reached, the aforementioned policies shall be adhered to by all parties. As in all matters, tuition and fees remain non-refundable, and the decision of the Board of Directors is final.



SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Barring an unforeseen hurricane, there will be no special enrollment periods for the 2021-2022 season. The Resident Choir Program welcomes singers in September and January of each season.

ZOOM REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION

Videoconferencing will continue to be utilized during the 2021-2022 school year. Incorporating lessons learned from this past season, the following policies shall be enforced:

SYMPTOMATIC EXPOSURE OR SYMPTOMATIC DIAGNOSIS

Singers who have been diagnosed with or are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 during a mandatory quarantine are not expected to participate in Zoom rehearsal. These absences will be marked as excused for at least 14 days after quarantine was initiated. For absences beyond 14 days, a doctor's note may be required.

ASYMPTOMATIC EXPOSURE OR ASYMPTOMATIC DIAGNOSIS

Singers who have been exposed or diagnosed with COVID-19 but remain asymptomatic must fully comply with PCC's aforementioned "Quarantine Policies" and are **expected to attend rehearsal via Zoom**. Should symptoms develop, please refer to the section above.

NON-COVID-RELATED ZOOM PARTICIPATION

Any singer who joins rehearsal via Zoom who is not undergoing a COVID-related quarantine will be marked unexcused. Yes, while joining rehearsal via Zoom is more beneficial than not attending at all, PCC shall enforce its attendance policy, especially its clearly outlined unexcused absence designations. Singers, both as individuals and by proxy of their parents, who are suspected of misrepresenting mandatory quarantine will be asked to furnish results of a positive COVID-19 test.

VACCINATION STATUS

All PCC employees, including full-time, part-time, and contracted staff members, are required to be vaccinated. Those who are unable due to health or personal reasons will be required to furnish biweekly negative COVID tests.

Under Florida executive order (as of August 1, 2021), PCC cannot require singers, parents, patrons, or volunteers to provide proof vaccination, nor can PCC discriminate against any person for obtaining or not obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination.

It is the official policy of the Pensacola Children's Chorus that all eligible individuals receive a full COVID-19 vaccination, though it is not required. Doing so honors the important values that we strive to instill in our singers: responsibility, teamwork, accountability, and empathy among them. We stand firmly aligned with scientific research which states time and time again that vaccination is the most effective way to curb this pandemic.

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MASK POLICIES

Singers are encouraged to wear masks to protect their personal health and the health of those around them. However, they are not required. PCC reserves the right to require masks at any point in the future, including mid-rehearsal. PCC continues to maintain an adequate supply of appropriately fitting face masks for the convenience of singers and volunteers, as well as for the collective safety of its constituents.

SINGERS

Singers, regardless of age or vaccination status, will be required to adhere to the following policies:

REHEARSALS

Singers are encouraged to wear a mask, especially if they are unvaccinated. PCC may exercise its right to require masking at any time and will provide masks for singers who do not have one on their person. The PCC instructor-in-charge, typically the Artistic & Executive Director, shall make decisions regarding the mandatory use of masks from time-to-time in rehearsals. The Artistic & Executive Director may require masks for a period of 2 weeks as deemed necessary due to changing public health concerns. Beyond this 2-week period, the recurrent use of masks for rehearsals requires the approval of the Executive Board of the Board of Directors.

PERFORMANCES

Singers are encouraged to wear a mask in backstage areas. Singers will be asked to remove masks for on-stage performances, though this is not required. PCC does require black masks to be worn on stage.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to adhere to the following policies:

CHOIR REPRESENTATIVES

Volunteer choir representatives are encouraged to wear a mask while in close contact with singers, and at all other times, though this is not required. PCC reserves the right to require masks for all volunteers regardless of vaccination status at any time.

PRODUCTION CREW/VOLUNTEERS

Production volunteers encouraged to wear a mask while occupying the backstage areas of the Saenger Theatre or alternative performance venue, though this is not required. PCC reserves the right to require masks for all volunteers regardless of vaccination status at any time.

BUILDING OCCUPANCY, NON-REHEARSAL

All non-staff individuals, regardless of vaccination status, who enter PCC facilities are encouraged to wear a mask, though this is not required. Staff members are empowered to set their own masking policies in their private office. Singers, parents, and volunteers are expected to respect these individual wishes. If an office occupant refuses to wear a mask, the staff member may conduct business in the lobby or another common area at their respectful discretion.

GRIEVANCES

Individuals who take issue with PCC's masking policies must issue a formal grievance **in writing** to the Artistic & Executive Director. Upon receipt, the Artistic & Executive Director will bring the grievance to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at their next meeting for review. Until a ruling is reached, the aforementioned policies shall be adhered to by all parties. As in all matters, tuition and fees remain non-refundable, and the decision of the Board of Directors is final.



ADDITIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

While a post-pandemic society is on the horizon, PCC remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of each of our singers, families, staff, and supporters. In adherence with the Board's [COVID-19 Response Framework](#), passed on May 20, 2020, the following health and safety measures will be implemented during the 2021-2022 season:

HAND SANITIZATION

Singers will be encouraged to wash their hands prior to each rehearsal, though mandatory pre-rehearsal handwashing will not be required. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available throughout PCC's facilities. Singers are encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon the conclusion of each rehearsal.

FACE COVERINGS DURING REHEARSAL

In accordance with state law, executive action, and local school policies, PCC *encourages* singers to wear a mask during rehearsals, though it is not expressly required. Educational staff are required to be vaccinated and will wear a mask or face shield at their discretion. Please refer to the previous "Mask Policies" for more information.

AIR PURIFICATION

The HVAC system regularly recycles indoor air from an outdoor intake. The cycle of airflow within the rehearsal hall is nearly 3 cycles per hour. To aid in this process, the rehearsal hall atmosphere will be sanitized using an EPA List N-verified airborne disinfectant at the discretion of the PCC staff. During the sanitization process, singers and volunteers will be permitted to exit the building at their own accord.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing, though not in this namesake, has long been a part of choral music through seating charts. We will continue this practice by maintaining extra space between singers.