

[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

Performing Arts and Choral (Choir) activities and performances

Performances – England

England moved to step 4 of the roadmap on 19 July and most restrictions have been lifted.

What can we do in England?

- Public performances can go ahead without any limit on audience numbers
- Social distancing measures are not required
- Face coverings are also no longer be a legal requirement, but government advice is to still wear them indoors in crowded public places.

Risk has not disappeared, and organisers will still need some measures in place to ensure a safe environment is provided.

Covid Secure Events

Instead the government has published [Events and Attractions guidance](#) that covers how to operate at step 4 and from 19 July.

It does not reference amateur performance or music but is the relevant guidance for venues and groups organising activities in those venues. It contains guidance on mitigations to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Performances – Wales

Wales is in alert level 0.

What can we do in Wales?

Outdoors:

- Organise a performance with no limits on the numbers attending.
- Must carry out a risk assessment and have measures in place to mitigate risk

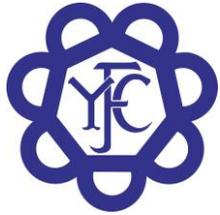
From [Monday 11 October](#): people it has been a requirement to show the [NHS COVID pass](#) to prove they are either fully vaccinated or have a recent negative Lateral Flow Test to attend:

- outdoor non-seated events where over 4,000 people are mixing closely for prolonged periods
- any outdoor event of more than 10,000 people

Indoors:

- Organise a performance with no limits on the numbers attending.
- Groups must carry out a risk assessment and have measures in place to mitigate risk
- Face masks remain a legal requirement





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

It has 6 priority actions:

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.

From [Monday 11 October](#): people it has been a requirement to show the [NHS COVID pass](#) to prove they are either fully vaccinated or have a recent negative Lateral Flow Test to attend:

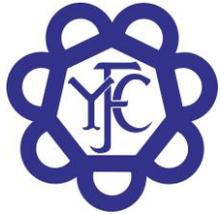
- nightclubs
- indoor non-seated events where over 500 people are mixing closely for prolonged periods
- any indoor event of more than 10,000 people

Events - Wales

[Alert level 0: guidance for employers, businesses and organisations](#). There are [three key steps](#):

1. Carry out a specific coronavirus risk assessment. Although restrictions have been lifted groups still need to provide a safe environment at their events. Doing a risk assessment is vital to this
 2. Providing information. Provide clear information to everyone involved on your activities so they understand what measures will be in place and what is expected of them.
 3. Taking reasonable measures. The point of the risk assessment is to understand the level of risk involved on your activities and then have measures in place to reduce those risks. The [Alert level 0: guidance for employers, businesses and organisation](#) lists what some of these might be. Some are highlighted below.
- Stop people who: have symptoms, have tested positive or has been in close contact with some who has symptoms / tested, from coming to your event.





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

- Gather outdoors where possible
- Good ventilation for indoor spaces
- Good hygiene - e.g. cleaning, shared surfaces and hand washing
- Physical distancing (see below)
- Controlling the flow of people

Physical distancing: The [guidance sates](#):

“Following the change in the law, physical distancing is still a reasonable measure that may be taken, and in many circumstances is likely to be required to be taken, however it is no longer given particular prominence. This means that where other measures can be taken to minimise risk, such as moving outdoors, requiring people to be tested or vaccinated, using screens etc., physical distancing may not be required or could be required to a lesser extent.”

So, whilst there is no limit on the numbers that can be involved in your activities, there might still be a practical limit determined by the need for some physical distancing.

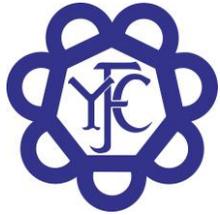
Face coverings: The [guidance sates](#):

“Adults and children over 12 must wear face-coverings in indoor public places, with the exception of hospitality settings such as restaurants, pubs, cafes or nightclubs.”

The exemption for hospitality seems to be about consuming food and drink - as such we think face coverings should be worn at indoor performances.

There is also a specific question about choirs that covers face coverings in the [Alert level 0: frequently asked questions guidance](#): *“What are the rules for choirs?”*





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

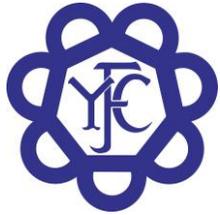
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	<p><i>Businesses, employers and other organisations, including activity and event organisers, must undertake a bespoke coronavirus risk assessment of their premises and activities and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to, and the spread of, coronavirus based on that bespoke risk assessment. Singing or chanting increases the amount of aerosol expelled into the air from people's mouths. Reducing the amount of singing or stopping singing can help to reduce the risk of transmission.</i></p> <p><i>If singing or chanting takes place, including as part of a choir, other mitigations should be put in place as part of the covid-specific risk assessment. Practical mitigations could include improving ventilation, moving the activity outdoors, increasing the space between people, or having fewer people present.</i></p> <p><i>The requirement to wear face-coverings could be one for the reasonable measures identified as part of your COVID specific risk assessment. However this will come down to your assessment of all the risks and the suite of mitigations you can practically put in place."</i></p> <p>As the FAQ focuses on singing and chanting our interpretation is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not wearing a face covering whilst singing could be deemed a reasonable excuse – and so may not be necessary:• It would not apply to non-singing time, and so face masks should still be worn by performers whilst not actually singing. <p>Whilst the FAQ does allow for a group to decide there are some important things to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The decision should be based on a risk assessment
--	--





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

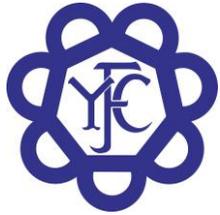
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidance does highlight the increased risk of singing and this should be a factor in any decision • Not wearing face covering whilst singing should only be considered if other mitigations are in place to reduce the risk.
<p>Rehearsals & Practices - England</p> <p>Governments Events and Attractions guidance is relevant. It contains guidance on mitigations to help reduce the spread of the virus, with six priority actions:</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 to track any infections. 6. Communicate and train. <p>Risk assessment</p> <p>Covid risks remain, so a risk assessment will still be central to what you do.</p> <p>Speak to participants: This is a really important. Understanding how participants feel will inform what measures you keep and what measures you can remove:</p>	<p>Rehearsals & Practices - Wales</p> <p>Alert level 0: guidance for employers, businesses and organisations. There are three key steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a specific coronavirus risk assessment. Although restrictions have been lifted groups still need to provide a safe environment at their events. Doing a risk assessment is vital to this 2. Providing information. Provide clear information to everyone involved on your activities so they understand what measures will be in place and what is expected of them. 3. Taking reasonable measures. The point of the risk assessment is to understand the level of risk involved on your activities and then have measures in place to reduce those risks. The Alert level 0: guidance for employers, businesses and organisation lists what some of these might be. Some are highlighted below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop people who: have symptoms, have tested positive or has been in close contact with some who has symptoms / tested, from coming to your event. • Gather outdoors where possible • Good ventilation for indoor spaces • Good hygiene - e.g. cleaning, shared surfaces and hand washing





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

- Are they happy to have a full rehearsal with all of your group in one room?
- Can they rehearse in smaller groups for most of the time – bringing the whole production together infrequently will be helpful.
- What measures would they still like in place?
- How do they feel about face coverings indoors?

Some things that might change:

- The requirement to socially distance has been removed, so the number of people allowed at a rehearsal hall/space will not have to be based the 2m or 1m+ rule and the participants may want more space around them during rehearsals.

Some things that might not change:

- Preventing Covid from even reaching your rehearsal will remain the best way to keep a safe environment. Send **clear messaging to participants asking them not to attend if they feel unwell and encourage them to take lateral flow tests.**
- Airborne transmission remains the biggest risk, so good ventilation will still be important.
- Regular hand washing is a low impact but effective measure.
- Social distancing rules will no longer dictate the number of people allowed at a rehearsal – but some measure to control the flow of people might be required, and you might want to

- Physical distancing (see below)
- Controlling the flow of people

Physical distancing: The [guidance states](#):

“Following the change in the law, physical distancing is still a reasonable measure that may be taken, and in many circumstances is likely to be required to be taken, however it is no longer given particular prominence. This means that where other measures can be taken to minimise risk, such as moving outdoors, requiring people to be tested or vaccinated, using screens etc., physical distancing may not be required or could be required to a lesser extent.”

So, whilst there is no limit on the numbers that can be involved in your activities, there might still be a practical limit determined by the need for some physical distancing.

Face coverings: The [guidance states](#):

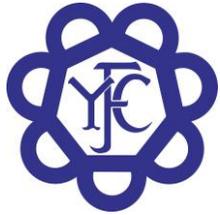
“Adults and children over 12 must wear face-coverings in indoor public places, with the exception of hospitality settings such as restaurants, pubs, cafes or nightclubs.”

The exemption for hospitality seems to be about consuming food and drink - as such we think face coverings should be worn at indoor performances.

There is also a specific question about choirs that covers face coverings in the [Alert level 0: frequently asked questions guidance](#): *“What are the rules for choirs?”*

Businesses, employers and other organisations, including activity and event organisers, must undertake a bespoke coronavirus risk assessment of their





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

keep some measures (like a one-way system) to avoid crowding.

Face coverings: Face coverings are no longer a legal requirement in England, but government advice will still be to wear them indoors in crowded public places. Groups will need to think about how to approach face coverings. The size and ventilation of your venue along with the views of participants will be key factors in that decision.

Vaccinations: knowing how many people are vaccinated will help you decide on what measures to keep. You do not need to know exactly who is vaccinated, just how many, and it is better to collect this data anonymously. Knowing that 90% of members are vaccinated will be useful as you assess risk and plan mitigations.

premises and activities and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to, and the spread of, coronavirus based on that bespoke risk assessment. Singing or chanting increases the amount of aerosol expelled into the air from people's mouths. Reducing the amount of singing or stopping singing can help to reduce the risk of transmission.

If singing or chanting takes place, including as part of a choir, other mitigations should be put in place as part of the covid-specific risk assessment. Practical mitigations could include improving ventilation, moving the activity outdoors, increasing the space between people, or having fewer people present.

The requirement to wear face-coverings could be one for the reasonable measures identified as part of your COVID specific risk assessment. However this will come down to your assessment of all the risks and the suite of mitigations you can practically put in place."

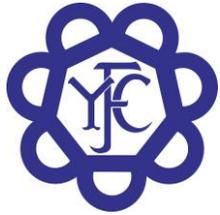
As the FAQ focuses on singing and chanting our interpretation is that:

- Not wearing a face covering whilst singing could be deemed a reasonable excuse – and so may not be necessary:
- It would not apply to non-singing time, and so face masks should still be worn by performers whilst not actually singing.

Whilst the FAQ does allow for a group to decide there are some important things to note:

- The decision should be based on a risk assessment
- The guidance does highlight the increased risk of singing and this should be a factor in any decision





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not wearing face covering whilst singing should only be considered if other mitigations are in place to reduce the risk.
--	--

YFC Performing Arts and Choral (Choir) activities and performances

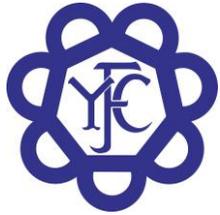
The impact of Covid-19 and the need to take actions to reduce transmission of the Covid virus means that YFC performance type activities and competitions must adapt. It is likely that risk reduction mitigations will be necessary in these situations for some time to come. Therefore we must all work to adapt how things are done in order to offer these activities in club programmes. This risk assessment guide/template for performing arts and choirs (below) is prepared with this in mind.

One impact of Covid is that venues are applying their own safety measures, and these vary from one venue to another. This is due to the design of the venue, the staff and guests they are working with as well as other local factors.

As this is a situation that is probably going to be in place for some time, YFCs are encouraged to carefully consider how they can work in the venues that are available to them for performance type activities and adapt the performances or the event plans accordingly.

This will necessitate careful planning and discussion with venue managers and there may be occasions when the script or stage instructions must be adapted, or the cast size adjusted. Some of the county federation events may need to spread over several days instead of a one-day event as well if venue capacities or backstage capacities are smaller than previously





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

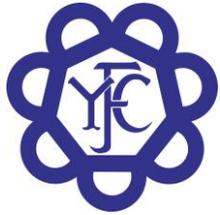
to accommodate the risk mitigations in place. This is through no fault of the venues, the county federation or the NFYFC – it is a result of the Covid pandemic and the need for organisations (including YFC), businesses and service providers to comply with regulations, including the Health & Safety at work regulations – Covid is now a known risk and assessing this risk and putting control measures in place is a requirement that must be complied with.

Face Coverings

Face coverings to be worn by everyone unless medically exempt or when eating/drinking, playing sport or similar activities. During performance activities, performers may remove their masks while performing but they must be put back on at the end of their performance.

<i>Performing arts & Choir activities</i>					
<i>What are the hazards? Who might be harmed and how?</i>	<i>What are you already doing to control the risks?</i>	<i>What further action do you need to take to control the risks?</i>	<i>Who needs to carry out the action?</i>	<i>When is the action needed by?</i>	<i>Done</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that someone develops symptoms of Covid-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or recent change in taste or smell), they will be asked to stay at home and seek a test. They will comply with Test & Trace requests and information. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that someone develops symptoms during rehearsal the cast & crew present should isolate as instructed by the NHS – ensure back-up plans for rehearsals to continue are in place - online if possible (assuming cast/crew feel well and are able to so). 					





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

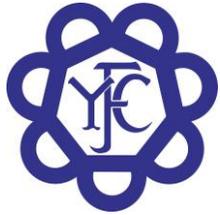
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to venue guidance and restrictions on room capacities, air flow, ventilation and safe working practice. 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will be useful to know the vaccine status of the cast and crew – that for example X% are double vaccinated – as this will help make decisions about distancing, especially if the percentage is rather low. Vaccinations are known to reduce virus spread but it is as yet unknown how vaccination affect the new Omicron strain of Covid-19 – therefore reasonable steps must be taken to reduce routes of transmission. 						
Communication	Risk of attendees misunderstanding and ignoring precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide pre-event communications in multiple ways to inform cast and crew. Remind all participants that social distancing is encouraged and a recognised way of reducing infection. Signage acts a good reminder. 				
Test and Trace logging	Cross-infection between participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Test and Trace logging system for visitors – ensure lists, which may be manual records, are kept of everyone present at every rehearsal. Keep these for 21 days. 				
Detection of infection	Detecting COVID-19 cases and encouraging COVID-19 sense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular lateral flow testing of cast and crew <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible use of non-contact thermometers on entry as reminders. 				
Air viral load	Risk of transmission through the air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh air available - windows/doors be opened Rehearse and perform outdoors 				





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

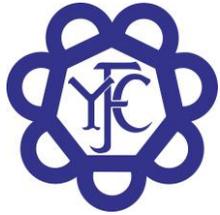
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	Risk of transmission through the air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings to be worn by everyone unless medically exempt or when eating/drinking, playing sport or similar activities. During performance activities, performers may remove their masks while performing but they must be put back on at the end of their performance. 				
Proximity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce size of cast and consider double-casting actors to achieve this 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cast & crew to travel to venue separately 				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cast & crew should be aware that distancing helps reduce infection. 				
	Large group of performers increasing risk of infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to venue guidelines on maximum numbers – whether rehearsing or performing – the numbers include cast, crew, directors and similar – everyone present. 				
	Proximity of performers, directors, producers and technicians whilst rehearsing or performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing group and cast sizes where it helps maintain distancing – for example, only those required for the scene to be present Consider distancing when scripting and writing If necessary, use video calls for some 				





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

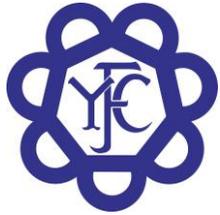
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

		<p>rehearsal and for cast & crew meetings/discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position group/cast side to side or back-to back to avoid face-to-face transmission • It is helpful to tape areas on floor to assist distancing. • Remove need for the performers to move around the audience – remove this from scripts/directions. • Restrict who is able to be backstage. • One-way systems around venues – this may include backstage areas if space is tight. • Remove orchestra pits. 				
	Proximity of those filming for streaming of performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filming crew to maintain distancing from performers at all times 				
	Transmission between front and back of house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain front-of-house and back-of-house zones separately • Minimising number of people who have to move between these areas 				
	Communication between team members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use email or online messages to reduce the need for face-to-face meetings 				





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

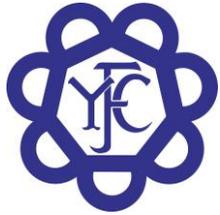
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	Proximity of audience while queueing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online ticketing • Face coverings to be worn. • Staggered/scheduled arrivals/departures • One-way routes around venue • Encourage distanced queues • Marked queueing locations on ground 				
	Proximity of audience in room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings to be worn. • Prearranged layout or pre-assigned seating plan • Block out first two or three rows of seating. • Consider seating household together. • Stewards to ensure distancing is respected and face coverings are worn. 				
Surface contact	Transmission of virus via surfaces e.g.doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open doors for ingress/egress • Steward any doors and supervise fire doors • Use of hand sanitizer 				
	Surface transmission – infected scripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display scripts/texts onto one large screen in rehearsal rooms to reduce contacts and avoid handing paper copies from person to person, <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue one copy of the script to each member of the cast/crew for them to 				





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

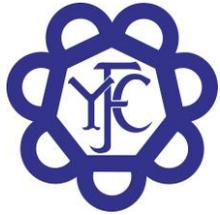
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

		<p>keep and use throughout the rehearsal period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage cast to learn lines early 				
	Surface transmission - infected staging/props/backstage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design simple sets that are quickly and easily assembled • Regular cleaning including sound/lighting desks • Limit props to only the essentials • Hand sanitiser available backstage 				
	Surface transmission - microphones and other equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microphone system with one mic per user • Laptop/projector to be set up and operated by one user only 				
	Surface transmission – infected costumes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using screened-off cubicles for dressing • Separating. • Costumes for each cast member. • Keeping cast's own clothes individually • If required, cleaning costumes between uses • Can cast members arrive at performances in the clothes they will wear for it 				
	Surface transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cast & crew to bring hand sanitiser and face coverings to all rehearsals. 				





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

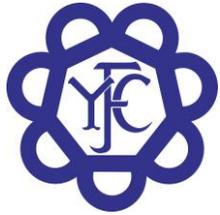
Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	Hair and makeup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cast/performers do their own hair and makeup – allocate own makeup kit to each performer. 				
	Surface transmission - infected in performance room surfaces such as tables, chairs etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning before and after table/room use. • Use of hand sanitiser 				
	Risk of cross-infection via water sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals to bring their own water bottles 				
	Risk of cross-infection via toilet facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of specific bathrooms in the venue to your group • Communication (via signage and/or in advance online) of toilet locations and usage rules to your group • Check that cleaning equipment is available in toilets • Signage to encourage handwashing, and cleaning of sinks etc after use 				
Understudies	In case of the requirement to isolate, key roles should have understudies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cast understudies for key roles in the performance. 				
Adjudicators	In case of the requirement to isolate, appoint at least	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the (say county round) is held over several nights, ensure adjudicators are seated well apart and not in close 				





[NAME OF CLUB HERE]

[Website and social media addresses]

Registered charity [add number]

OR

[insert the following] A charity without the need to register

	three (probably 4 or 5) or more adjudicators.	contact - - this should allow at last two adjudicators to see the judging through from start to end.				
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

