

## ***AYC COVID Mitigation Plan for In Person Rehearsals 2022-2023***

Alaska Youth Choir's (AYCs) mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of Juneau's youth through the developing, nurturing, and encouraging a life-long learning and love of music through choral singing. AYC is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation.

AYC will follow all relevant guidance issued by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and CBJ EOC as mandates evolve throughout the course of the COVID pandemic. AYC will also ensure that this mitigation plan aligns with the Faith Lutheran Church COVID Operating Parameters.

All Choristers and Director will be required to sign a waiver of responsibility not holding liable AYC and Faith Lutheran Church for participation in the program.

Choristers will be expected to wash their hands/sanitize prior to rehearsal and to maintain social/physical distancing before and after rehearsals and wear face coverings while inside Faith Lutheran Church, except as outlined in this mitigation plan below. Choristers will not share food, music, face shields, or any other equipment if it has not been previously sanitized. Equipment such as face shields will be sanitized between chorister use.

Parents and AYC staff will be responsible for ensuring any sick Choristers or choristers with a sick family member in the same household or who were in recent contact with sick individuals are not participating in the rehearsals. If someone in the family household has been tested for COVID because of symptoms (not travel) and is waiting for results, the player should not attend Rehearsal until the results are documented. It will be recommended for those families with family members who are at high risk that they not participate in the AYC. There will be parent safety coordinators or board member who will assist with screening and sanitization at each rehearsal. They will also assist with calling family members if a chorister begins feeling unwell at practice.

Spectators will be required to maintain social distancing during practices while in the Faith Lutheran Church. Signs will be posted. This will follow the Faith Lutheran Church COVID Operating Parameters.

Although the young and healthy may be subject to less severe cases of COVID-19, every case of this disease is potentially life-altering or deadly, particularly in those with risk factors that may occur within our communities. Health consequences may be long-standing and only apparent weeks after initial infection and recovery. Until COVID-19 is either eradicated, or a cure is found, there is no way of eliminating the risk of infection. The risks of participation will be clearly communicated to parents and choristers by email and social media communication, and verbal communication from AYC Director and Board.

- **If a Chorister or immediate family is sick do not come to rehearsal**

### **Entering the Faith Lutheran**

- AYC encourages carpooling only with those in your small social circle
- Choristers will check in with a parent safety coordinator at the door who will check temperature and ask screening questions for any symptoms:
  - Have you had a fever in last 72 hours?
  - Have you had close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 7 days? (definition of close contact by CDC - within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes)
  - Have you traveled out of state in the last 10 days?

- If any answers are yes then Chorister will be asked to wear a face shield for rehearsal

Their answers along with their name will be recorded.

These attendance documents will be kept in a safe location at least for 21 days.

- Chorister will use hand sanitizer upon entry and exiting
- Chorister will maintain social distancing when walking in and out of the building.

### **Protective Measures/Protocols**

- There will be no sharing of water bottles or snacks.
- Choristers must not share any gear including face shields and music.
- Choristers should not do group celebrations, NO high 5s, hugs, handshakes, and other behavior that break social distancing.
- Choristers should use hand sanitizer before, during and after training.
- Choristers and director should always practice social distancing unless as part teaching music
- Equipment should be washed and sanitized after each activity
- All participants have signed/submitted the Waiver (Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement) to the AYC prior to being allowed to participate.
- Parent/Guardian to notify AYC immediately if their child becomes ill for any reason.
- Symptoms: Any chorister, director, parent, board member and or spectator who is sick, has a persistent cough, is running a temperature or is displaying any symptoms suggesting that the individual may be ill, (from any contagious malady, including cold, flu, or suspected coronavirus) will be prohibited from attending rehearsal. Any AYC administrator who sees any adult attendee who displays any of these symptoms should be politely but firmly asked to leave. A minor who is displaying any of these symptoms should be safely isolated until an adult responsible for the minor can remove the minor. Everyone should be monitoring symptoms daily, and if someone in household shows any signs/symptoms of the novel coronavirus they should be staying at home for 14 days or 5 days if vaccinated.
- Faith Lutheran Church mitigation plan ensures the cleanliness and sanitation of the facility and restricts user groups so there is little to no overlap.

### **Spectators**

- Spectators are only allowed if helping a young chorister transition to rehearsal

### **In the event of an Occurrence**

- If a chorister tests positive, the COVID point of contact person – Board Member Amanda Blackgoat - will be contacted and will work directly with the family, State of Alaska DHSS, CBJ EOC, and Alaska Youth Choir. AYC will report within **a 24-hour period** of awareness of the possible or confirmed positive for COVID-19 to all families of possible exposure.
- Choristers in the particular group are required to inform AYC as soon as possible, if they become sick after participation in AYC, so that other participants can be informed that a fellow participant became sick and they should monitor for symptoms and practice social distancing measures.
- Before resuming, the group with close contact with an infected individual will have rehearsal cancelled or moved to Zoom for 7 days to monitor possible infections from the infected individual.

**IMPORTANT:** *We will be enforcing these safety measures in order to provide Juneau youth with year-round choral opportunities. It is noted that no singing is without risk, but it is critical for Juneau youth to have some activity during the winter months during the pandemic. We also want to create as safe practice environment as possible for all choristers and families, as well as mitigation from the exposure from the virus. We will be removing any participant who refuses to follow these safety rules for the good of everyone.*

We appreciate your cooperation in following these new and temporary procedures as we work together to maintain the highest health and safety standards.

**Questions please contact AYC**

Amanda Blackgoat - [alaskayouthchoir@gmail.com](mailto:alaskayouthchoir@gmail.com)

**Attachments:**

Mitigation Plan

Waiver

Procedures