Chorale singing was recognized early in the pandemic by scientists as a superspreader activity. Out of an abundance of caution, the MIT Women’s Chorale Executive Board adopted these policies designed to keep our singers safe from infection.

**VACCINATION**

**REQUIREMENT:** All singers who attend in-person rehearsals must present proof of full vaccination, as defined by current CDC guidelines for that individual singer’s age and medical situation, at the first rehearsal they attend in person beginning 9/28/22.


**RECOMMENDATION:** Our singers should avail themselves of the “bivalent” boosters which will be available in the autumn of 2022.

**EXCEPTIONS TO VACCINATION POLICY:** Singers who wish a medical exemption from the vaccination requirement may contact our Virus Safety Committee.

**MASKING**

**REQUIREMENT:** Indoor masking is required by our rehearsal host, Faith Lutheran Church, and by the Chorale Executive Board.

**Minimal masking required by the Chorale:** Singers at a minimum must wear a well-fitted surgical mask without air gaps (fitted over the nose and over the mouth) at all times during rehearsal. Cloth masks are not acceptable. Mask may be temporarily removed to rehydrate.

**RECOMMENDATION:** KN94 or KN95 masks are recommended as they provide much better two-way protection and are less likely to be sucked into the mouth during singing than standard surgical masks.

Sources of inexpensive and somewhat re-usable KN95 masks, vetted as authentic by the NY Times include:

https://bonafidemasks.com Powecom KN 95
https://wellbefore.com/products/kn95-disposable-fda-ce
(Note that masks from Amazon may be counterfeit.)

Highly recommended—a mask designed for singers may be desirable. Such a mask is initially more expensive, but is reusable. This singers’ masked passed pre-certification testing as an N95 mask (manufacturer is actively seeking full NIOSH certification).

https://www.mymusicfolders.com/product/resonance-95-mask/
EXCEPTIONS TO MASKING POLICY: None

ATTENDANCE FOLLOWING COVID-POSITIVE TEST +/- SYMPTOMS or EXPOSURE TO AN INFECTED PERSON

**REQUIRED:** If you have tested positive, do not return to in-person rehearsals until day 10 after your first positive test, even if you are asymptomatic. Note that would mean only missing one rehearsal. If you have been symptomatic and your symptoms have not resolved by day 10, extend that period to at least two rehearsals.

Given that choral singing has such a high risk of spreading COVID and other respiratory infections, we ask you to be as conservative as possible, and choose attending rehearsals via Zoom when you have any doubt about your possible infectivity. If there is any question about your infectivity, please check in with your medical provider before returning.

This caution should extend to the post-Paxlovid treatment period, as Paxlovid’s clearance of infectious virus can sometimes only be temporary.

Do not come to an in-person rehearsal if you have, or have just gotten over ANY respiratory infection, not just Covid. After pandemic isolation, the immunity of your fellow singers to other types viruses are at a low point, leaving them at risk of serious and even dangerous infections.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**REQUIRED:** Each chorale participant is required to acknowledge their acceptance of this policy by signing below.