

Risk Assessment for Hanney Singing Group during the Covid-19 Pandemic

2nd December 2020

The Government permits members of a choir or other singing group to rehearse or perform provided that they follow the protective measures set out in applicable guidance. This Risk Assessment has been compiled with particular reference to the Government Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for the Performing Arts sector [1].

As of the 14th September 2020, this guidance includes the statement:-

“... in a COVID-19 Secure venue or public outdoor place, non-professional performing arts activity, including choirs, orchestras or drama groups can continue to rehearse or perform together where this is planned activity in line with the performing arts guidance and if they can do so in a way that ensures that there is no interaction between separate and distinct groups of no more than 6 at any time. If an amateur group is not able to ensure that no mingling takes place between these sub-groups of no more than 6 (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising), then such non-professional activity should not take place.”

It should also be noted that a recent preprint study from the University of Bristol on the effects of singing compared to either breathing, or, to normal speech [2], indicates that singing, in and of itself, increases the exhaled aerosol particle count by roughly a factor of two. However, this is the case for similar volume levels and increasing the volume (whether spoken or sung) significantly increases the amount of aerosols exhaled. It was found that an individual singing heartily can generate 20 to 40 times more mass of aerosol particles than either singing or speaking quietly. There are some modest differences seen between male and females but the issue generally scales-up with the size of group.

If the number of coronavirus cases increases significantly and regional or national lockdown measures are imposed by the Government, then permission to access the Chapel premises will be immediately withdrawn and the restriction will remain in force until the lockdown measures are removed.

Group: Hanney Singing Group	Site: Hanney Chapel	
People at Risk: Participants	Additional Information:	
Contact Person: Dave Pepler	Job Title: Deacon	Review Date: 2 nd December 2020

Risk Evaluation

Hazard	Risk	Initial Risk Rating (L/M/H)	Control Measures	Final Risk Rating (L/M/H)
COVID-19	Infection with SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19 causing virus) from an asymptomatic carrier	M	<p>Restrict group size to a group of no more than 6 people. A written registration of participants should be made and supplied to the Pastor, Mark Fisher. The list will be kept for at least 21 days to facilitate NHS Test and Trace, if requested.</p> <p>Social distancing measures of at least 2 metres must be adhered to between different households. Participants should avoid rehearsing / performing when stood face-to-face; and where possible, be positioned back-to-back or side-by-side.</p> <p>Good respiratory hygiene will be encouraged using the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.</p> <p>Hand hygiene. Frequent handwashing and sanitiser use (provided in lobby) upon building entry and exit.</p> <p>Face coverings: from 24th September 2020, performers must wear a face covering at all times other than when in the course of their employment or in the course of providing their services (for example during rehearsals and performances).</p> <p>Ventilation should be increased by opening windows.</p> <p>Voice: the volume of either speech or singing must be kept to no more than normal spoken volume (i.e. mezzo-piano).</p>	L
COVID-19	Infection with SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19 causing virus) from a symptomatic carrier	M	<p>No one is permitted to enter the building if they are exhibiting any of the typical symptoms of Covid-19 i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature • a new, continuous cough • a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste <p>or, if they live with someone who is exhibiting these symptoms,</p>	L

Hazard	Risk	Initial Risk Rating (L/M/H)	Control Measures	Final Risk Rating (L/M/H)
			<p>or, they have been advised by NHS Test & Trace to isolate at home.</p> <p>If a participant develops symptoms that could be indicative of Covid-19 they should immediately leave the building, go home and should call NHS 111 for advice and to arrange for a COVID test. Cleaning of items which have been touched by that participant must take place straightaway.</p>	
COVID-19	Infection with SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19 causing virus) from contaminated surfaces	M	<p>Hanney Chapel is a COVID-Secure venue subject to separate risk assessment and building management policies [3] which will be adhered to.</p> <p>Consistent with this, (except for emergencies), no access to the kitchen is permitted and any consumables or liquid refreshment required must be brought by individual participants.</p> <p>All frequently touched surfaces, door handles, window latches, light switches and any other chapel equipment (such as chairs and the piano) or toilet facilities that have been used must be cleaned after the event. This should be using standard cleaning products, such as detergents and bleach supplies of which can be found in the cupboards in the lavatories.</p>	L

Date Risk Assessment completed: 2nd December 2020 By whom: Dave Pepler

Date of next review: (as Government Guidelines are updated)

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

[2] [University of Bristol research on breathing, speaking and singing https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/itempdf74155353254prod/12789221/Comparing_the_Respirable_Aerosol_Concentrations_and_Particle_Size_Distributions_Generated_by_Singing_Speaking_and_Breat_v1.pdf](https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/itempdf74155353254prod/12789221/Comparing_the_Respirable_Aerosol_Concentrations_and_Particle_Size_Distributions_Generated_by_Singing_Speaking_and_Breat_v1.pdf)

[3] http://hanney-chapel.org.uk/policies/COVID-19_Risk_Assessment_6.pdf