

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

20th May 2021

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] the latest version of which is the 18th May 2021 and this guidance includes the statement:-

Non-professional activities are permitted indoors and outdoors, within the legal gathering limits.

- Outdoors, people can take part in non-professional performing arts activities in a group of up to 30 people. Activities can take place with multiple permitted groups, provided the groups are kept separate throughout the activity, and the event is organised in line with the organised events guidance for local authorities.
- Indoors, people can take part in non-professional performing arts activities in a group of up to 6 people, or as a group of 2 households/bubbles. Activities can take place with multiple permitted groups, provided the groups are kept separate throughout the activity, and the event is organised in line with the organised events guidance for local authorities.
- However, non-professional singing indoors should only take place in a single group of up to 6 people.

It should also be noted that a 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lockdown measures are imposed by the Government, then permission to access the Chapel premises will be immediately withdrawn and the restriction will remain in force until the lockdown measures are removed.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: 20 th May 2021

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: 20th May 2021 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_11.pdf