



State College Choral Society Vaccination and Masking Policy

With the COVID-19 pandemic finally behind us, the Choral Society is updating our best practices regarding vaccinations, boosters and masking. Inevitably, most of the risk that SCCS has sought over time to mitigate must fall back on the shoulders of our individual members. We believe that, currently, our endurance and growth as a musical organization depends upon that individual assumption of risk.

We understand that this policy may present concerns to some of our members, and we will continue to adhere to best practices with respect to those concerns through such accommodations as live streamed rehearsals. Masking and social distancing will remain an optional, personal preference as well.

All members should be aware of the following COVID-19 symptoms and self-test at the direction of your personal physician's office.

- Fever/chills
- Headaches
- Cough/shortness of breath
- Sore throat/congestion
- Fatigue/body aches
- Gastrointestinal symptoms

DO NOT COME TO REHEARSAL UNTIL RESULTS ARE KNOWN. EVEN IF NOT COVID, THERE ARE MANY OTHER COMMUNICABLE ILLNESSES.

In addition, SCCS is providing the following information to assist each individual member in determining what level of risk mitigation is right for them:

◆The CDC announced in August 2024 that the U.S. has entered the endemic phase and Covid will likely always be with us, much like the seasonal flu – vaccines may become an annual recommendation.

◆It is likely that a large percentage of the U.S. population has had COVID, whether they realize it.

◆There are effective vaccines/boosters recommended for all age groups, as well as effective oral and IV antivirals. For most who contract COVID, it is not any worse than a common cold currently. Those with pre-existing medical conditions or are immune compromised may experience a longer period of illness/recovery.

◆Those hospitalized are generally 70 years of age or older, and most are “incidental findings” (they have been hospitalized for something else and are found to have COVID when screened upon admission).

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.