

Let's all sing... and sing safely!

We know so much more about safe singing practices now than we did at the outset of the pandemic. Mounting research has established how to mitigate risk factors, with studies carefully examining how to proceed safely.

Fewer than half the teachers who responded to the *Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey* are able to implement recommended guidelines that would allow singing in schools given space and resource limitations.¹ An even larger portion of teacher respondents (69.3%) say they have not yet received those resources required to bring safe singing practices into the classroom: resources we aim to see considered in planning for the coming year.²

International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study

- **JULY 2021 UPDATE**
 - Distancing may be decreased to 3 feet, adjusting farther or closer depending on local conditions.
 - In spaces with good ventilation rates and HEPA filtration, increased indoor rehearsal times of 50 minutes may be considered. In spaces with higher air change rates, you may consider longer rehearsal times.
- When singers wear a well-fitted, three-layer, surgical-style mask, release of aerosols is greatly reduced.
- Plexiglass partitions are *not* recommended due to HVAC system design limitations in rooms and a concern for aerosol build-up when plexiglass barriers are used.
- A survey conducted as part of this study shows that “the overall chance of contracting Covid during a 30-minute music rehearsal (including choir) was .000051% or 1 in 1.96 million” with mitigation factors in place.

PERFORM - (Particulate Respiratory Matter to Inform Guidance for the Safe Distancing of Performers in a COVID-19 Pandemic) Study

- Found that singing does not produce substantially more aerosols than speaking at a similar volume.
- Study team recommends that musical organizations consider treating speaking and singing equally.
- Factors to consider for safe singing: number of participants, air exchange rate and ventilation in the space and the duration of rehearsal/performance.

Want to learn more? Check out these resources:

- [Performing Arts Aerosol Study Produces More Scientific Data for Return to Activities](#)
- [International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study Report 3](#) and [July 2021 update on guidance](#)
- [Reducing Bioaerosol Emissions and Exposures in the Performing Arts: A Scientific Roadmap for a Safe Return from COVID19](#)

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The *Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey* paints an authentic picture of our experiences as Canadian music educators. The survey sample pool was substantial and representative, with almost 1000 respondents from across the country. Comprehensive survey results hold the potential to guide policy and practice related to singing in schools in the upcoming year, keeping students engaged AND safe. Final report publication to follow.

^{1,2} Morin, F., & Mahmud, M. N. (2021). Singing in Canadian schools: COVID 19 impact survey. Unpublished preliminary findings. Choral Canada.