



# Central Bucks Choirs

Tradition | Discipline | Excellence

## **Central Bucks Choirs – RTP Plan**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Central Bucks Choral department is to encourage a lifelong love for music and the arts, teach students through music performance and develop leadership and life skills.

As members of the Central Bucks Choir Programs, students will:

- Dedicate themselves to each other and the ensemble;
- Unite under the principles of respect, responsibility, pride, and excellence;
- Forge relationships built upon shared experiences;
- Strive to do their very best as musicians, performers, students, and community members.

### **Rationale for Returning**

- Music
  - Easily accessible literature for all audiences.
  - Develop a standard of excellence, and the mental approach needed to attain success.
- Social
  - Providing a safe space for all students to be creative.
  - Forge meaningful relationships.
- Community Outreach
  - Contribution to school spirit.
  - Performances at community events.

### **Disclaimer**

The music specific procedures detailed below are at the recommendation from all eight Central Bucks Choir Directors in coordination with state and local guidelines and the CBSD Administration. Any future actions will be aligned with CBSD Health & Safety Plan and coordinated between the directors and administration.

## List of Music Specific Procedures

In a time when students have given up so much, the ensemble experiences will be, as it always has been, the reason many students will continue to study music. Preserving these opportunities for current and future students will be very important in fostering the creativity, social responsibility and humanity that are necessary to return to normal. The value of ensemble music making in teaching music and other educational goals is impossible to replace and, therefore, needs to be carefully protected. The science of protecting people during this pandemic is still evolving. All items below are ideas for consideration given the information currently available and are largely based on the science by the NFHS aerosol study. Information on this study, which was done with music education in mind, can be found [HERE](#). All accommodations should be made with careful consideration of the best science currently available and reviewed regularly for possible revision based on that science. Please be advised that this plan is only in effect when Pennsylvania is in the Green Phase.

- All staff and students will be required to complete daily symptom assessments via Microsoft Forms. Choir Directors are responsible for ensuring all choir members and choir staff complete this form prior to planned practices.
- Choir directors must take attendance before the start of each practice.
- Choir directors and choir staff must monitor students for symptoms prior to and during all practices.
- Use of any CBSD facility must be arranged adhering to the district's use of facilities process, obtained prior to use.
- Choir Directors must work with Athletic Directors and/or Principal(s) so that the campus capacity remains no higher than the current PA Health and Safety Guidelines (staff and students).
- Students should bring their own water bottles (labeled with their name) and pencils to rehearsals.
- If individual microphones are needed, microphones will be sanitized prior to use and will not be shared between students.
- If physical sheet music is being used, it will be distributed in adherence with building procedures (distribution days, etc.). Students are expected to bring their music home after rehearsals.
- No materials, including sheet music and folders will be shared or returned.
- Students will have access to sanitation stations as per the Central Bucks School District Health and Safety Plan.
- Staff and students will regularly wash hands and use hand sanitizer before, during and after rehearsals.
- Masks must be worn by all staff and students, at all times (including performances)
- Seating/standing should be based on a minimum of a minimum of six-foot social distancing guidelines.
- Indoor and Outdoor rehearsals will be limited so that capacity (staff and students) remains no higher than the current PA and/or Health and Safety Guidelines spaced a minimum of 6ft. apart and all wearing masks.
- As per the NFHS study recommendations, indoor rehearsals will be structured in 30-minute increments to allow one air cycle. For rehearsals longer than 30 minutes, choirs will move to a

second rehearsal room to allow for this air cycle exchange. Outdoor rehearsals will be structured in 30-minute increments with a 5-minute allowance for an air cycle exchange.

- Students should use restrooms designated by the director. Students will sign out for contact tracing purposes.
- All staff must complete all necessary training via SafeSchools. All staff will verify completion with the director and principal.
- Choir Directors are required to inform the building principal of any, and all concerns related to COVID 19.
- Choir Directors are required to work with the building principal in the event a student or staff member displays signs of COVID 19 or tests positive for COVID 19.
- If a student or staff member has as traveled out-of-state to any location on Pennsylvania's self-quarantine list (click [here](#) for the most current list), student or staff must quarantine for 14 days.
- Any student or staff with positive symptoms will not be permitted to participate in practices and should follow all procedures set forth by the "Procedures for Staff or Students Exhibiting Symptoms or Testing Positive for COVID 19 (Appendix A).
- Students or staff with known exposures to individuals who have tested positive for COVID 19 should quarantine per CBSD policy.
- **All accommodations should be constantly reviewed and altered based on the best science available as this situation evolves.**

## Appendix A

### Procedures for Staff or Students Exhibiting Symptoms or Testing Positive for COVID-19

#### What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms may range from mild to severe. Symptoms may include:

- Fever of 100.4 F or higher or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

#### What should you do if you are sick?

- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you are infected with the virus, STAY AT HOME. It is essential that you take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home or community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.
- Notify the school immediately. (Notify the choral director)
- A determination will be made by the nurse's office personnel on possible exposure of student and staff for the need to notify, isolate, and/or monitor for symptoms.
- If a positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed, (Appendix B) will be implemented with the assistance of local health professionals and the Bucks County Department of Health.

#### What should be done if a student or staff member becomes ill with COVID-19 during practice or an event?

- The ill individual will be isolated until the student or staff member can leave the school or event.
- If a student, a parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, and arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up
- Ill individuals will be asked to contact their physician or appropriate healthcare professional for direction and should not return to activity for 72 hours or upon medical clearances from their healthcare provider.
- Areas used by the sick person will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfecting of the area occurs (for outdoor areas, this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area, if applicable).

#### How will a student or staff return to play following a COVID-19 diagnosis?

Student or staff must have medical clearance from their physician or appropriate healthcare professional, determined to be non-contagious, fever free, improvement in respiratory symptoms, no vomiting or diarrhea.

#### How will a positive COVID test impact program, or school?

A determination will be made by the principal and superintendent when teams, programs or schools can return to athletics after a positive COVID case in accordance with Bucks County Health Department recommendations.

#### Education:

Staff, Parents, and Choir Members will be educated on the following (through posters, flyers, meetings, emails, and phone calls).

- COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- Proper ways to limit exposure to COVID-19 (handwashing, cough in your elbow, disinfecting high-touch surfaces, social distancing, etc.)

- The content of the Return to Play document
- Any pertinent COVID-19 information released by state/local government or Central Bucks School District

## Appendix B



# WHAT IS THE CONTACT TRACING PROCESS?

## CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is the process of identifying, notifying, and monitoring anyone who came in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 while they were infectious (2 days before onset of symptoms until the end of the person's isolation period). Contact tracing is a key strategy for preventing the further spread of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19. Close contacts of a case are considered to have been exposed to COVID-19, and may go on to develop the disease. Identifying and quarantining close contacts limits their ability to spread disease should they become infectious and helps to limit community spread.

## WHAT DOES CONTACT TRACING LOOK LIKE?

1. When an individual is tested and confirmed positive for COVID-19, they are asked to isolate for a minimum of ten days. They must also be fever free for 72 hours without the use of anti-fever medication and show an improvement in symptoms before isolation can be discontinued. These individuals are called cases.
2. Positive COVID-19 test results are reportable to the PA Department of Health. Within 24 hours of receiving the positive result, trained public health staff conduct an interview with the case to obtain a list of close contacts they had while infectious. Cases are considered to be infectious beginning two days before onset of symptoms or two days before the date of the positive result if the person did not have symptoms. The cases are encouraged to utilize calendars, social media, etc. to remember where and who they were around during their infectious period. During the case investigation, the public health staff attempt to obtain as much information as possible on the contacts (address, phone, email, etc.) and then share the contact information with the designated contact tracers.
3. Contact tracers reach out to educate, inform and support those who had a known close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual through phone calls, texts, emails and mailings. To protect patient privacy, close contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19.
4. Close contacts are told to:
  - Stay home and maintain social distancing through the end of their quarantine period (14 days from the date of their last exposure to a case).
  - Monitor themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19, including checking their temperature.
  - Be aware that they could possibly spread the infection to others, even if they do not feel sick.
  - Exceptions to these instructions may occur for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers who have no symptoms. They may be permitted to work with special precautions in place, such as daily symptom checking prior to reporting to work and masking while at work.
5. With consent, contacts are enrolled into a daily symptom monitoring system called Sara Alert. The Sara Alert system sends the contacts a daily symptom questionnaire via text, email, or robo-call, using whichever method is preferred by the contact. Public health staff and contact tracers review the contacts' responses on a real-time dashboard and promptly reach out to anyone who answers "yes" to having a symptom(s).
6. If a contact develops symptoms, they should isolate themselves and let their healthcare provider and public health staff know. The contact will be evaluated to see if they need medical care and/or COVID-19 testing.