



## **Statement on Public Health Protocol- October 2021**

*Choirs Ontario seeks to offer the best insight as possible to our membership on the Government of Ontario's COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The following are taken from passages in Government of Ontario press releases and regulations: please consult the requisite regulations and legislation for the most accurate and up-to-date information.*

*Please note that Choirs Ontario assumes no responsibility for the policies and practices of member organisations. This note serves solely the purpose of information sharing, and does not act as advice, interpretation, or counsel. Organisations should consult the most up-to-date regulations to ensure their compliance.*

*Choirs Ontario strongly urges all in the choral music community to take all prudent steps to ensure the safety and security of all those within the choral music community. We urge all to get vaccinated as we continue the fight against COVID-19.*

### **Capacity limits for businesses or facilities open to the public**

Effective [Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.](#), capacity limits have been lifted to allow 100 per cent capacity in the following settings (where proof of vaccination is required):

- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas;
- Spectator areas of facilities for sports and recreational fitness (would not include gyms, personal training);
- Meeting and event spaces (indoor meeting and event spaces will still need to limit capacity to the number that can maintain physical distancing);
- Horseracing tracks, car racing tracks, and other similar venues; and
- Commercial film and television productions with studio audiences.

Other public health and workplace safety measures continue to remain in effect for these settings. This can include wearing face coverings, screening and the collecting of patron information to support contact tracing. In settings where capacity limits have been lifted, the requirement for individuals to maintain two metres of physical distancing are being removed, with limited exceptions.

Effective [October 25, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.](#), Ontario will lift capacity limits in the vast majority of settings where proof of vaccination are required, such as restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments; indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities such as gyms and where personal physical fitness trainers provide instruction; casinos, bingo halls and other

gaming establishments; and indoor meeting and event spaces. Limits will also be lifted in certain outdoor settings.

At this time, the government will also allow other settings to lift capacity limits and physical distancing requirements if they choose to require proof of vaccination, including:

- Indoor areas of museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions;
- Indoor areas of amusement parks; and
- Indoor areas of fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals.

Locations where a wedding, funeral or religious service, rite or ceremony takes place may also implement proof of vaccination requirements for services, rites, or ceremonies at the location.

### **Mask Mandate for Choristers**

4) Where there is any requirement ... that a person wear a mask or face covering, the requirement does not apply to a person who,

(f) is performing or rehearsing in a film or television production or in a concert, artistic event, theatrical performance or other performance;

### **Vaccine Requirements**

As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This approach focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and includes:

- Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
- Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
- Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
- Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport;
- Sporting events; and
- Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas.

*Further questions can be directed to [president@choirsontario.org](mailto:president@choirsontario.org).*