

10 words or less:

Currently, it is not safe to sing in crowds.

100 words or less:

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through droplets in the air. There are large droplets and small droplets. Large droplets come from the lungs of one person during coughing or sneezing, and are then inhaled into the nose or mouth by a nearby person. COVID-19 can also spread through very small droplets in the air- smaller than those expelled in a cough or sneeze. Activities like singing and loud voice produce these types of droplets and should therefore be avoided. COVID-19 can spread from one person to another even if the person does not show any symptoms of the disease.

1,000 words or less:

COVID-19 is the name of a new virus first detected in 2019 called the coronavirus disease 2019. COVID-19 is spread easily from person to person through airborne respiratory droplets of varying sizes. COVID-19 can spread from one person to another even if the person does not show any symptoms of the disease. Strong evidence exists that large droplets, such as those in a cough or sneeze, easily spread the disease. Some data also exist that show that very small droplets in the air, such as those produced when singing or speaking loudly, can also transmit the disease. These very small airborne particles can stay suspended in the air for a long period of time and potentially infect someone who breathes in that air, even up to three-hours later.

To avoid disease transmission, it is recommended that people follow a few safety precautions. First, wear a mask when in contact with other people outside of the home. Even a simple homemade face covering can protect from virus transmission. Second, stay at least 6 feet away from people outside of the home while wearing a mask. If engaged in activities such as singing and loud voice use, stay at least 12 feet away from others, and wear a mask. Because wearing a face covering and standing far apart is antithetical to choral singing, at this time choral singing is not a recommended activity.

Because of the increased risk associated with large ensembles (refer to your local guidelines regarding permitted group size for gatherings), the ability to provide specific Coronavirus testing (vs. symptomatic screening) or a valid vaccine for all performers and ensemble staff will be essential before these activities can safely resume.

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Coronavirus-Disease-2019-Basics>

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00974-w>

<https://www.mh-freiburg.de/en/university/covid-19-corona/risk-assessment>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFI3GsVzi6Q>

