

Health, Safety, and Hazard Response Policy for Regional Events (including regional rehearsals and performances)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of all those participating in Region 13 events/activities—including chorus members, directors, judges, faculty, staff, volunteers, invited guests, VIPs, and audiences—by establishing clear guidelines for responding to contagious illnesses (including COVID-19) and hazardous situations such as severe weather and natural disasters.

2. Scope

This policy is in effect at Region 13–sponsored or Region 13–affiliated activities, conventions/contests, events, rehearsals, meetings, performances, travel, and gatherings (hereinafter “Regional Events”). It applies to:

- All chorus members
- Directors
- Faculty
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Independent contractors
- Invited guests
- VIPs
- Audience members
- and any other individuals present on behalf of or in connection with Region 13

Section A: Contagious Illness Policy for Regional Events

3. General Principles

Choral singing involves close proximity and shared air, which can increase the risk of transmitting contagious illnesses. The Region 13 Leadership Team is committed to minimizing health risks while supporting continued participation when it is safe to do so.

4. Contagious Illnesses Covered

This policy includes, but is not limited to: COVID-19

- Influenza
- RSV
- Norovirus
- Other communicable diseases as identified by public health authorities

Health, Safety, and Hazard Response Policy for Regional Events (including regional rehearsals and performances)

5. Member and Participant Responsibilities

All members and participants are expected to:

- **Not attend rehearsals, performances, or events** if experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness, including fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Follow current public health guidance related to isolation, masking, and return to group activities.
- Notify a chorus leader, regional leader, or designated contact as appropriate if unable to attend due to illness.
- Practice good hygiene, including handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- When an active health issue is detected, the Director or Team Leader/Coordinator is required to notify the RLT within five (5) days of the regional event, or as soon as discovered if less than five (5) days to the regional event.

Members are encouraged to prioritize their own health and the health of others without fear of penalty.

6. Rehearsal and Performance Health Measures

When warranted, Region 13 Leadership Team may utilize temporary participant measures, including:

- Masking during rehearsals
- Physical distancing or modified formations
- Enhanced ventilation or rehearsal adjustments
- Hybrid or virtual rehearsals
- Temporary suspension of in-person activities

The process for the Region 13 Leadership Team (“RLT”) in determining the applicable health-related measures on behalf of the members and guests for a regional event will be to reach consensus by communication, either in person, via zoom, telephone or text. The Regional Leadership Team Coordinator or their designee will communicate the final RLT decision to the impacted members and guests.

Measures may vary based on local conditions, public health guidance, or venue requirements.

7. Return to Participation

Members may return to regional event rehearsals and performances once they:

- Meet current public health guidance for returning to group activities, and
- Feel well enough to participate fully and safely in singing activities.

Section B: Hazardous Situations and Emergency Conditions During Regional Events

Health, Safety, and Hazard Response Policy for Regional Events (including regional rehearsals and performances)

8. Covered Hazardous Situations

This policy applies *during regional events*, to hazardous conditions including, but not limited to:

- Severe weather (snowstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, extreme heat or cold)
- Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, wildfires)
- Public safety emergencies
- Unsafe travel conditions or venue-related hazards

9. Organizational Response

The Region 13 Leadership Team will monitor conditions and may take actions such as:

- Canceling or postponing regional event rehearsals or performances
- Delaying start times or ending events early
- Moving activities online
- Changing venues or performance formats

Decisions will prioritize safety and may be informed by government advisories, venue policies, and local conditions.

10. Chapter Expectations Regarding Hazardous Conditions During Regional Events

Chapters are expected to:

- Follow official communications regarding cancellations or changes.
- Use good judgment when traveling to and from regional event rehearsals or performances.
- Communicate with leadership if they are unable to attend due to unsafe conditions.

11. Communication

Region 13 Leadership Team via the Team Coordinator or their designee will communicate cancellations, schedule changes, and emergency instructions through established channels such as email, messaging platforms, phone, or the organization's website.

12. Policy Review

This policy may be reviewed and updated as public health guidance, legal requirements, or organizational needs change.