



# Singing in Church

## **Singing or chanting can occur as part of a religious ceremony, wedding or funeral**

Singing is allowed, but it is best for singing and chanting to occur in well ventilated places or outside where the risk is lower.

Singing and chanting in religious settings has been shown to spread the virus. It is best if face masks are worn by congregants when singing occurs.

Singing inside in a poorly ventilated area with singers not physically distanced has been associated with the spread of COVID-19.

Humming and singing softly is of lower risk.

A study has shown that normal singing produces more aerosol particles than normal talking, and loud singing generates more particles than normal singing.

Wearing a face mask reduces the level of aerosol particles produced to about that of normal talking.

It is important that anyone attending singing does not have any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) to ensure the safety of others.

People at high-risk of severe illness should not participate in singing while there is active community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Group singing is safest when the following measures are applied:

- singing outside or in a well-ventilated room (with windows open)
- physical distancing of at least 2 metres between each person while singing
- short performances (of less than an hour)
- singing softly.
- Wearing a face mask while singing

## **Singing rehearsals are permitted**

If the rehearsal is held indoors, the indoor venue should be well ventilated.

This can be achieved by making sure that windows are opened.

If you are participating in a music or singing rehearsal it is recommended that you keep at least two metres from other people in the rehearsal.

*Source: As of 11/03/2021 UCA VICTAS SYNOD LEGAL*

*Editor: The word 'group' is simply defined as multiple people, so applies to choirs and to congregations!*

## **Singing versus density quotients / capacity limits**

The singing rules can impact the maximum numbers of people possible within a space.

If a venue is using 'manual' attendance records (4 m<sup>2</sup> rule), then it's the same people number.

If a venue is using the government's 'QR Code' system, then the higher maximum number allowed (as compared to 4 m<sup>2</sup> rule) is reduced *when* singing is being permitted. While the QR system provides for 2 m<sup>2</sup> density calculations, achieving the 2 metre people spacing for singing results in the space being entirely used up before the maximum capacity is reached.

This is just one situation (of many) where different Health Directions intersect with each other.