

Living Out Loud_ Vaccination Policy

This Vaccination Policy sits alongside the Covid Safe Plan provided by the Choir Director and forms the guidance around vaccination requirements of individual members attending LOL activities. LOL members must be aware of and adhere to this Vaccination Policy (and any future updates to the Policy). LOL members must also be aware of and adhere to the most up to date Covid Safe Plan developed and implemented by the Choir Director to manage Covid infection risks related to LOL rehearsal and performance activities.

The key element of this Vaccination Policy is that **all LOL members must be vaccinated against Covid**, and vaccination status must be 'up to date' according to the current ATAGI recommendations.

Further detail regarding this and the considerations for LOL members if they are not able to meet this requirement are set out below.

Background

These guidelines have been developed in context of the current information available about the spread of Covid-19 and the most up to date ATAGI advice.

The term fully vaccinated is now replaced with "up-to-date" vaccination status. At the date of this Policy this is 2 primary Covid vaccinations and a 3rd booster dose. A 4th booster available for eligible groups is recommended but not required to be considered 'up to date'. This may change as new data/vaccination schedule/recommendations arise.

Covid infection is known to spread from one person to another when in contact with contaminated surfaces and via aerosols in the air expired by people who are infected with Covid virus. This includes people who may be asymptomatic and unaware they are Covid positive.

Singing is known to be an aerosol generating procedure. In the early part of the pandemic 2020, health care workers infected with Covid at the workplace were deemed to have contracted Covid infection from patients who were not known to be Covid positive, and who were engaged in shouting or singing behaviours. Full PPE was subsequently employed in at risk areas, eg dementia wards.

Covid vaccination reduces the risk of serious Covid illness but also reduces the risk of passing Covid to others (see ATAGI advice at www.health.gov.au).

Vaccination requirements

To ensure that those attending LOL activities are as safe as possible from cross infection, all LOL members must be vaccinated against Covid, and vaccination status must be 'up to date' according to the current ATAGI recommendations.

Members will be required to provide evidence of vaccination status, and this will need to be sighted by the nominated Covid Marshall(s). Confirmation will then be recorded and dated. Actual certificates or Immunisation history are not required to be retained. The nominated Covid Marshall are named below, this may be changed from time to time by the LOL Committee and communicated to LOL members.

Exemptions

Exemptions to the vaccination requirements described above will be considered on an individual basis and will need to be submitted for review.

Only exemptions as listed under the ATAGI advice will be considered valid. Recent covid infection is not currently generally considered a reason for omission of a covid vaccination but exemption for temporary delay for next scheduled vaccination dose up to **3** months may apply. For the purposes of singing with LOL, recent covid infection does not substitute for 'up to date' vaccination status in the interim period.

Exemptions will be reviewed by two LOL members nominated by the LOL committee, as named below. Confidentiality will be strictly adhered to by the LOL member(s) who are reviewing exemptions. Any information provided by a LOL member in support of their exemption will be returned to the LOL member once their exemption request has been completed.

Any LOL member with a valid exemption will not be excluded from LOL activities but it is acknowledged that this does potentially increase the risk to other choir members. Therefore, the LOL Committee has agreed that an exempt LOL member may attend but **MUST** wear a mask whenever engaged in singing, this includes usual rehearsal, warm-ups or performances or any other singing. A fitted face mask is recommended, and a commercial surgical mask is preferable over a cloth mask.

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Covid Marshalls as at 11.4.2022: Kay Dufty & Naomi Swindon
Exemption Reviewers as at 11.4.2022: Sue Breedon & Naomi Swindon