

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy – Program Participants

Purpose

Choir Alberta offers a variety of programs with an in-person component. Choir Alberta is committed to providing these programs in an environment that protects the health and safety of all Program Participants. Having regard to the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to public health and safety, Choir Alberta mandates full vaccination for participation in Choir Alberta programs as set out in this policy and in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Restrictions Exemption Program.

Application

This policy applies to all Choir Alberta programs, subject to the exemptions set out herein.

Definitions

The following terms are defined for the purposes of this policy:

“COVID-19” means the disease caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus, including any new strains or variants of the virus.

“Exempt” means falling within the exemptions from the requirement to be Vaccinated set out in this policy.

“Program” means a Choir Alberta program which requires participant registration.

“Program Participants” means all individuals and organizations seeking registration or participation in a Program, including choristers, choirs, conductors, accompanists, guest artists, and other in-person collaborators, contractors, and volunteers.

“Restriction Exemption Program” means the Government of Alberta public health program which permits in-scope businesses, entities, and organizers to operate without most public health restrictions as outlined in the [Government of Alberta COVID-19 Guidance for Restrictions Exemption Program](#), [CMOH Order 45-2021](#), and [CMOH Order 45-2021](#).

“Vaccinated” means having received all doses of a vaccine approved by Health Canada on an interim or permanent basis for the SARS-CoV2 virus as required to be deemed fully vaccinated.

Procedures

Timeline

Unless Exempt, all Program Participants must be Vaccinated at least two (2) weeks prior to the first in-person component of the Program. Choir Alberta may cancel the registration or participation of any Program Participant who is not Vaccinated within the timeframe required by this policy, unless the Program Participant is Exempt.

Documentation Required Upon Registration

At the time of registration in the Program, Program Participants will be required to provide to Choir Alberta:

1. proof of vaccination in a form satisfactory to Choir Alberta;
2. confirmation that the Program Participant will be Vaccinated at least two (2) weeks prior to the first in-person component of the Program, followed by proof of vaccination in a form satisfactory to Choir Alberta prior to the first in-person component of the Program; or
3. a request for exemption from this policy, the reason for the exemption request, and any supporting documentation reasonably required by Choir Alberta to determine whether the registrant is eligible for exemption.

Exemptions

A Program Participant may request to be Exempt from the requirement to be Vaccinated by submitting to Choir Alberta a request for exemption based on one or more of the following:

1. the Program Participant's medical condition(s) which, in the opinion of a physician, renders the Program Participant unable to safely receive a COVID-19 vaccine, provided that such request is submitted with a medical exception letter from such physician confirming the need for an exemption;
2. the Program Participant's ineligibility for vaccination against COVID-19 by reason of age;
3. the Program Participant's sincerely held religious belief or practice which prohibits the Program Participant from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, provided that such request is submitted with records which, in the opinion of Choir Alberta acting reasonably, establish the Program Participant's religious belief or practice.

Upon receipt of a Program Participant's request to be Exempt, Choir Alberta will consider the request in accordance with this policy and any obligations imposed on Choir Alberta, including but not limited to Choir Alberta's obligations under the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and public health restrictions in force at the relevant time, if any, and will communicate to the Program Participant whether the request is granted or refused.

Rapid Testing Requirements for Exempt Program Participants

If a Program Participant is Exempt by reason of age or sincerely held religious belief or practice, the Program Participant must provide proof of a negative privately-paid COVID-19 test result from a sample that is taken within the 72 hour period preceding each in-person component of the Program.

Additional Measures

Where a Program Participant is Exempt and eligible for registration, Choir Alberta may impose additional measures to address the public health risks associated with COVID-19 in an in-person choral setting, and may require the Program Participant to use other public health measures when attending the Program, including but not limited to physical distancing and use of personal protective equipment.

Collecting and Storing Personal Health Information

Having regard to the sensitivity of medical information and other forms of personal information which a Program Participant will be required to provide under this policy, Choir Alberta will take all reasonable steps to ensure that any such information is collected, used, disclosed, and maintained only in accordance with Choir Alberta's obligations under applicable federal and provincial privacy legislation.