

## **Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society**

### **Guidance for return to rehearsals from 25 August 2021**

After more than a year of constantly changing regulations we have written this guidance to provide reassurance to DGASS members. The guidance sets out the latest thinking on Covid-19 transmission risks and explains how we will mitigate against them. We have based our guidance on documents published by [Scottish Government](#) and [Making Music](#).

From 9 August 2021, most of the Covid-19 restrictions in Scotland were lifted as the country moved beyond the level zero rules. Physical distancing rules and the limits on gatherings have been removed, and all venues are allowed to reopen. However, face coverings still need to be worn in many public spaces.

Covid-19 is still with us and new variants are still emerging. All activity is now permitted but that does not mean it is permitted without any consideration for the transmission risks which that activity may bring with it.

We think it is important to put mitigations in place, following relevant guidance, and undertake a risk assessment. DGASS has a duty of care towards our members and your safety is our number one priority.

#### **Resumption of indoor rehearsals**

From 9 August 2021, physical distancing and social gathering restrictions are no longer legally required. Scotland has moved beyond Level 0 restrictions.

Therefore, ***Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan rehearsals, indoors, can resume.***

However, we will keep an eye on local data. If there is a surge in hospital cases in Fife due to Covid-19, the Committee will consider whether rehearsals should be paused.

**What are the risk factors now considered to be?**

<b>Risk</b>		<b>Mitigations</b>
<b>Aerosols</b>	<p>These pose the biggest risk. They are the smallest particles that we breathe out and carry the virus if we have Covid-19. Being lighter than air, they will float around according to the air flow in that space. Being so light, they also linger in the air for much longer than larger particles.</p>	<p><b>Ventilation</b> Our rehearsal space is very large and already has good ventilation. We will ensure that the rehearsal space is kept well ventilated by opening any possible doors and leaving the outside doors open.</p> <p><b>Face coverings</b> Face coverings should be worn when entering or moving around the building and during break times. They can be removed when seated and/or singing.</p>
<b>Droplets</b>	<p>These are larger and heavier particles than aerosols and can vary in size. Because these are heavier they fall to the ground sooner.</p>	<p><b>Distance</b> We will space the singers out by at least 1m. Chairs will be spaced so that there is room at either side of members and rows will be spaced further apart.</p> <p><b>Face coverings</b> Face coverings should be worn when entering or moving around the building and during break times. They can be removed when seated and/or singing.</p>
<b>Surfaces</b>	<p>They could be contaminated if someone had sneezed or coughed on them or touched them.</p>	<p><b>Sanitising</b> All members are asked to maintain rigorous hand hygiene, including regular hand washing. Use hand sanitising products frequently when in the Church, for example after visiting the toilets. You may want to bring your own sanitiser.</p> <p>The Church is regularly cleaned and all precautions taken by members.</p>

<b>Breaks</b>	Serving coffees and teas and queuing for these.	<b>Refreshments</b> We would ask that members bring their own refreshments with them as we do not intend to offer them at present
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## **Limekilns Church**

We hope to build a very positive relationship with the Church . Committee members are in regular communication to ensure that the venue continues to provide a safe environment for the society.

### **Vaccination and test status**

The vaccination and testing status of an individual does have a bearing on the risk they are exposed to and the risk they present to others. Someone who is double jabbed is less likely to get seriously ill from Covid-19 and is less likely to spread Covid-19 to others. Someone who has recently tested negative with a Lateral flow test is less likely to be infectious.

We will not ask members for their vaccination or test status.

There is no necessity for members to undertake testing before attending rehearsals – unless you have Covid-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

### **Personal responsibility**

The committee is responsible for the group activity that are rehearsals. However, we ask that individuals also take personal responsibility. We would ask you **not to attend rehearsals if:**

- you have Covid symptoms,
- you have tested positive for Covid-19,
- someone you have had close contact with has tested positive,
- you have been told to self-isolate,
- you have had a recent positive lateral flow test.

Ultimately, the Committee can mitigate and minimise risks but we can never eliminate the risk completely. Members should be aware of that and choose to attend – or not – depending on your own personal circumstances and health.

If, after a rehearsal which you have attended, you develop symptoms and/or test positive for Covid-19, please let someone in the Committee know your situation as soon as possible. We can then make a decision on whether all members should be advised. Your anonymity will be protected – we will not give out the names of members in this position.

## **Social interactions**

Even though it is no longer a requirement to physically distance, many people will be anxious and some members may be more comfortable with some level of social distancing. Please be considerate of other members, give people space and be sensitive to those who may feel different about personal interactions.

## **Have your say**

The Committee are responsible for your comfort and safety. We have discussed this guidance and agreed it together. However, if you feel that we haven't considered all the relevant information, or if you have questions about the guidance and the risk assessment, please contact the Chair, Morag Riley on [morag.riley@btinternet.com](mailto:morag.riley@btinternet.com) or speak to any committee member at a rehearsal. This is new ground for all of us and we are happy to take advice from members.

We will continue to assess the situation and would be really happy to take your feedback.